



MSFC

# Lithium Ion Battery Risk Reduction Testing in Support of Robotic Lander Vehicles

Eric Lowery, Thomas Whitt  
and Marlon Holt (NASA/MSFC)  
Orest Pena (JTI)

# Robotic Missions of Interest



MSFC

- Lunar Equator – Science Instrument Package
- Lunar Pole – Science Instrument Package
- Lunar Crater
  - Rim
  - Floor – Permanently Shadowed Regions
    - Stationary Lander - ASRG
    - Rover - ASRG
- NEO (Near Earth Object) – Asteroid, etc.
- Mars



MSFC

# Power System Challenges

- Mass Constrained
  - Lithium Ion energy density
- Thermal Environment
  - $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+170^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Mission Duration
  - 6 Years – 75 Cycles
- Sun Light Availability
  - ASRG – Advanced Stirling Radioisotope Generator
  - Solar Array
    - Dust?



MSFC

# Most Power Challenged Missions

- Lunar Equator
  - Solar Array Battery System
  - Lithium Ion energy density
  - $-200^{\circ}\text{ C}$  to  $+170^{\circ}\text{ C}$
  - 6 Years – 75 Cycles
- Lunar Polar Crater Floor - PSR
  - ASRG  $\sim$  140 watt maximum
  - Lithium Ion energy density supplement
  - $-200^{\circ}\text{ C}$  to  $+20^{\circ}\text{ C}$
  - 6 months – 100 Cycles

# Lunar Equator Mission

## Test Article Packaging



| Option | Cell Type        | Temp    | Test Case                          | # Cells | VDC | Period |
|--------|------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|-----|--------|
| SAB    | VES 180          | Nominal | Pack (1)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-003     | 4       | 14  | RT-6yr |
| SAB    | VES 180          | Nominal | Pack (1a)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-004    | 4       | 14  | A-8 mo |
| SAB    | VES 180          | Off-Nom | Pack (1*)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-005    | 4       | 14  | RT-6yr |
| SAB    | Lithion NCP55-2  | Nominal | Pack (2)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-006     | 4       | 14  | RT-6yr |
| SAB    | Lithion NCP55-2  | Nominal | Pack (2a)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-007    | 4       | 14  | A-8 mo |
| SAB    | Lithion NCP55-2  | Off-Nom | Pack (2*)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-008    | 4       | 14  | RT-6yr |
| ASRG   | A123 APR18650M1A | Nominal | Battery (3)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-001  | 20      | 28  | RT     |
| ASRG   | A123 APR18650M1A | Off-Nom | Battery (3a)<br>ES41-10-ILN-TA-002 | 20      | 28  | RT     |

# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



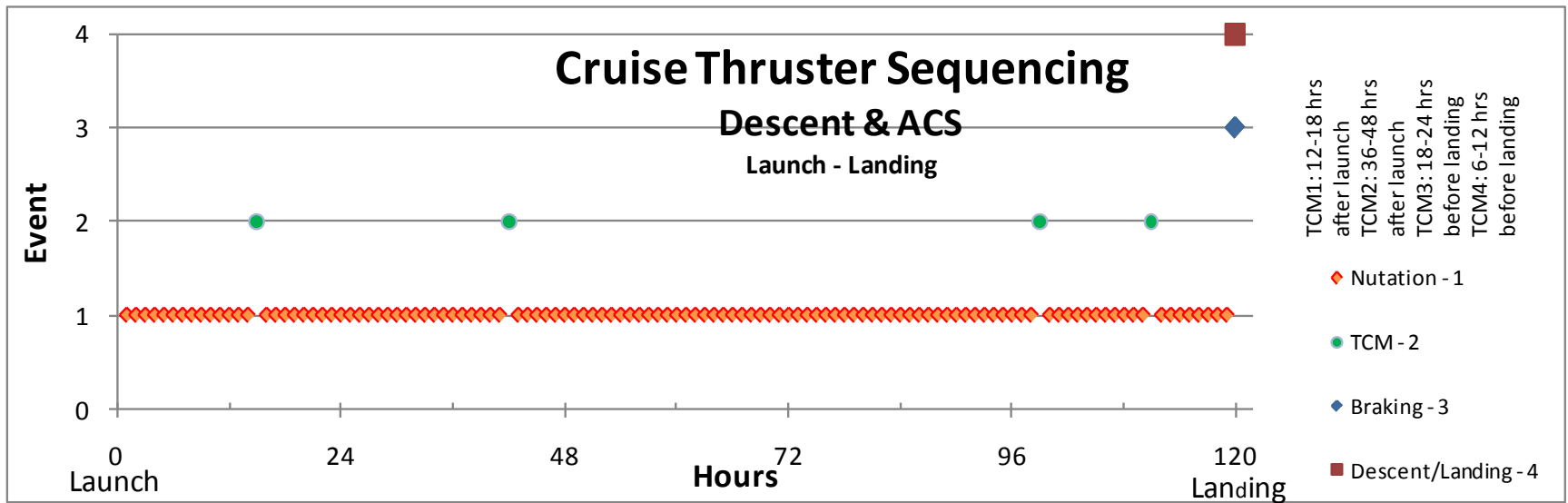
MSFC

- PSR — indicates use of radioisotope power
  - 140 watt ASRG output unable to cover power peaks
    - Thrusters — 750 W
    - Science Instruments — 450 W
- Thermal Subsystem Control
  - -200° C to +20° C
- Lithium Ion ( $\text{LiFePO}_4$ ) Battery Supplement
  - 10 cell Battery

# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



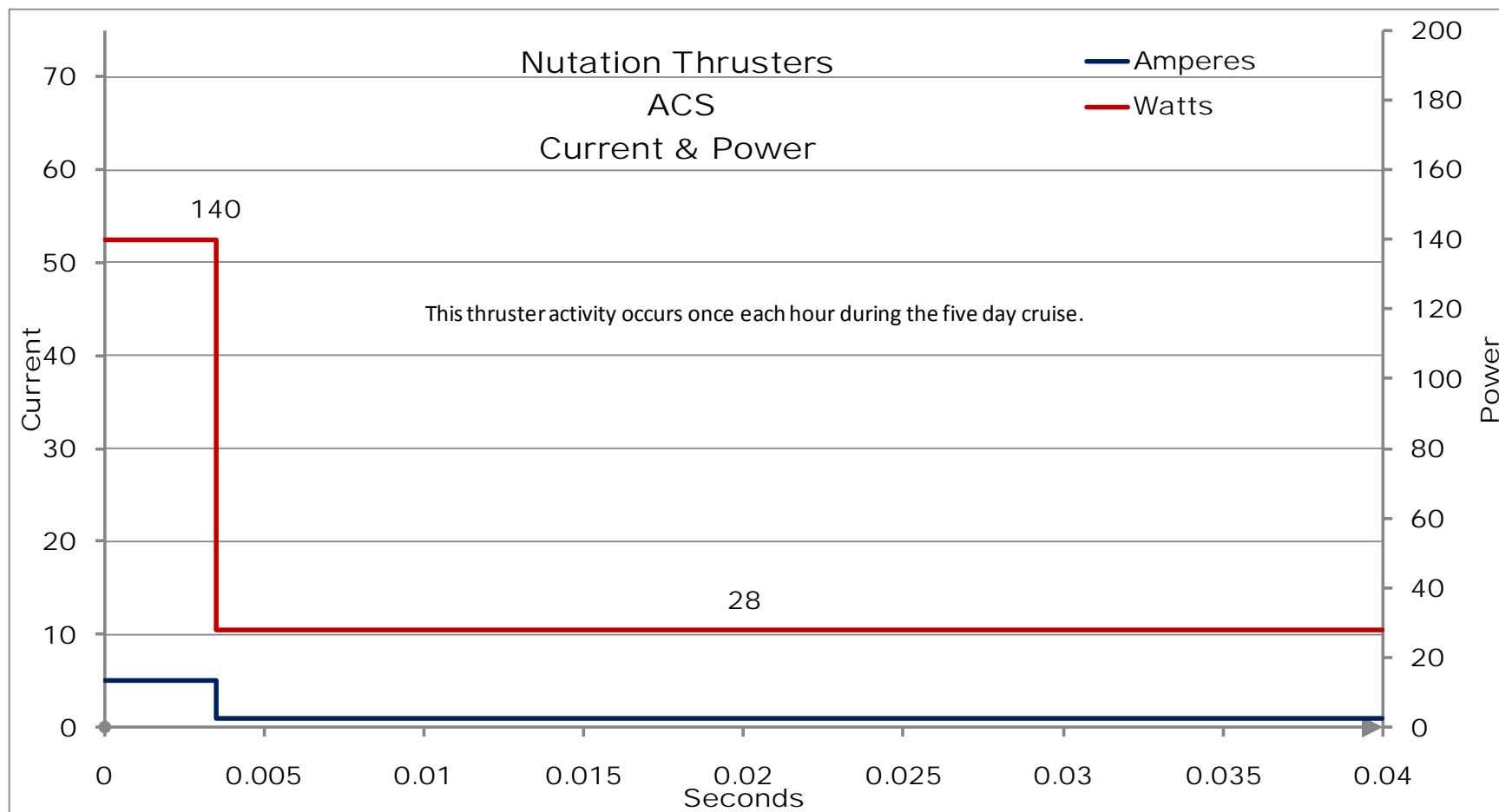
MSFC



# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



MSFC

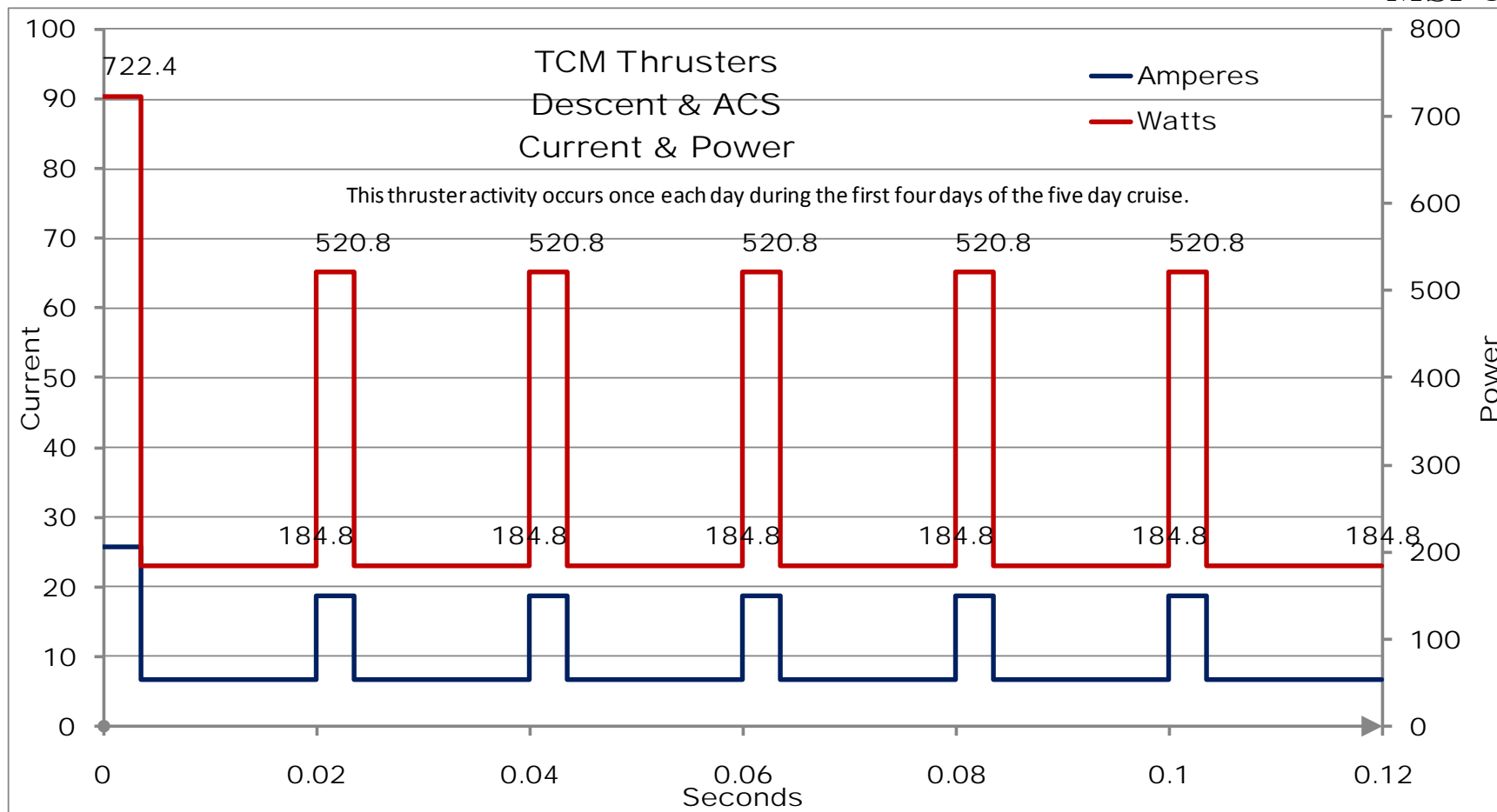




# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



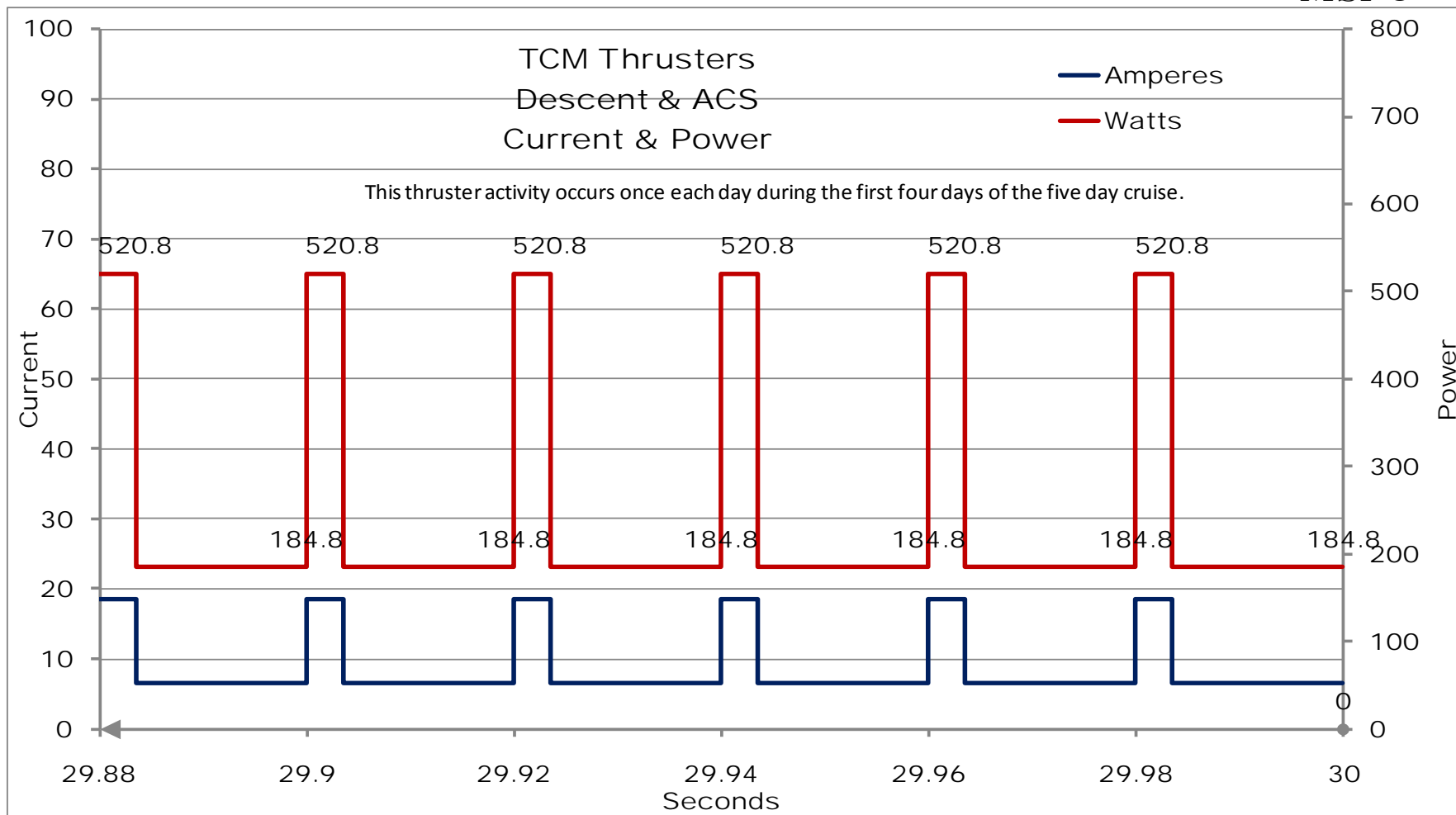
MSFC



# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



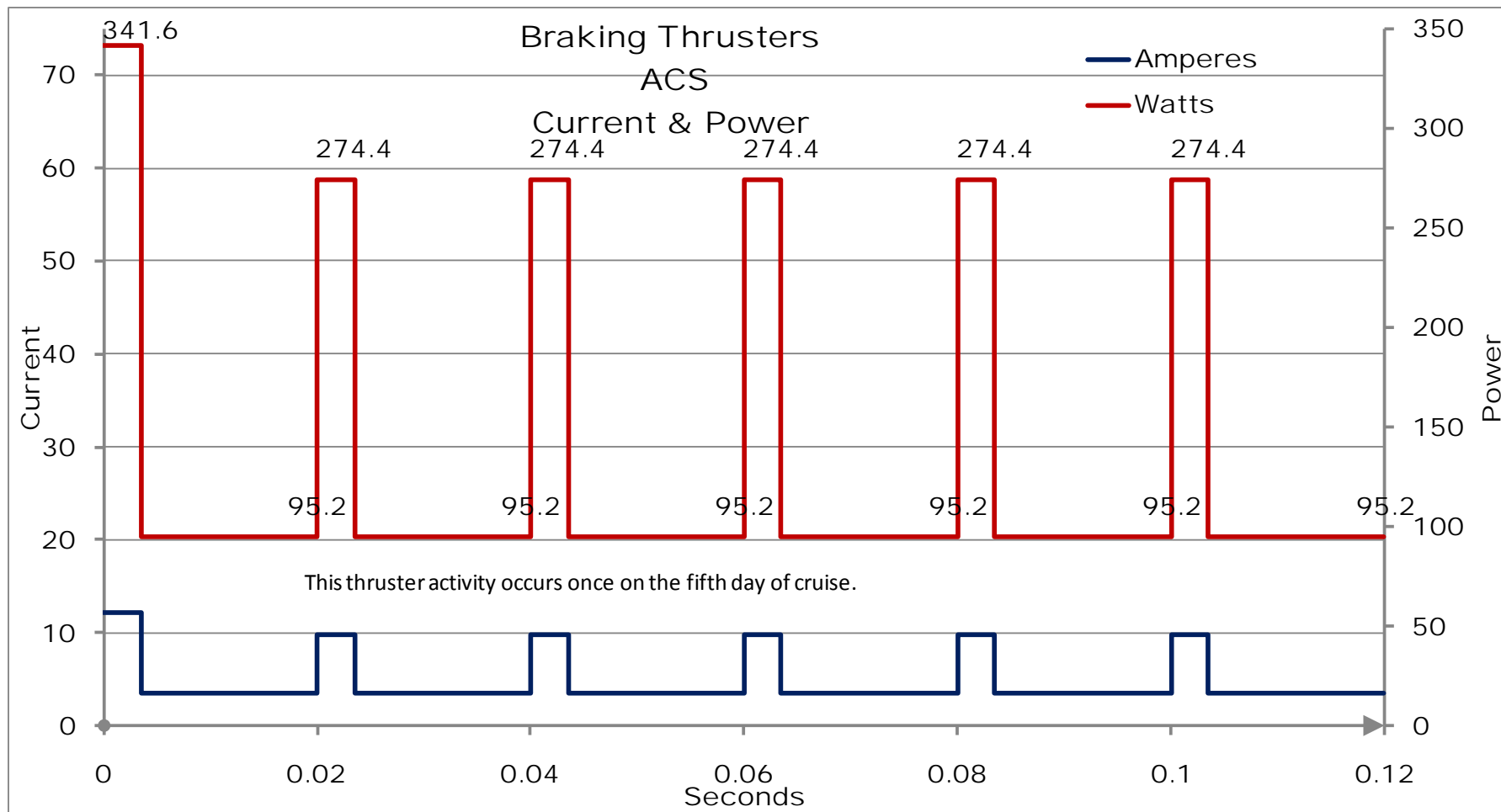
MSFC



# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



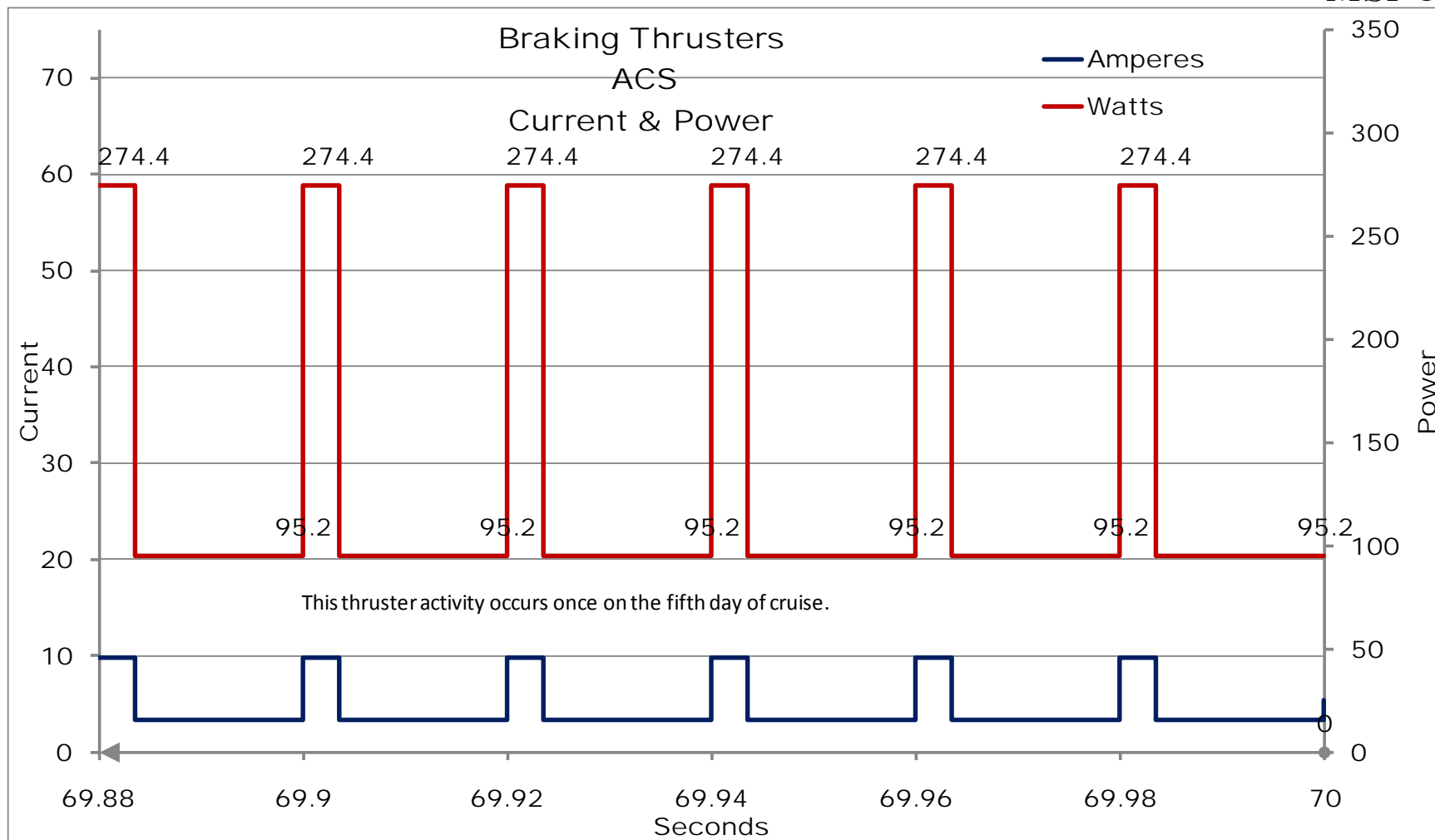
MSFC



# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



MSFC

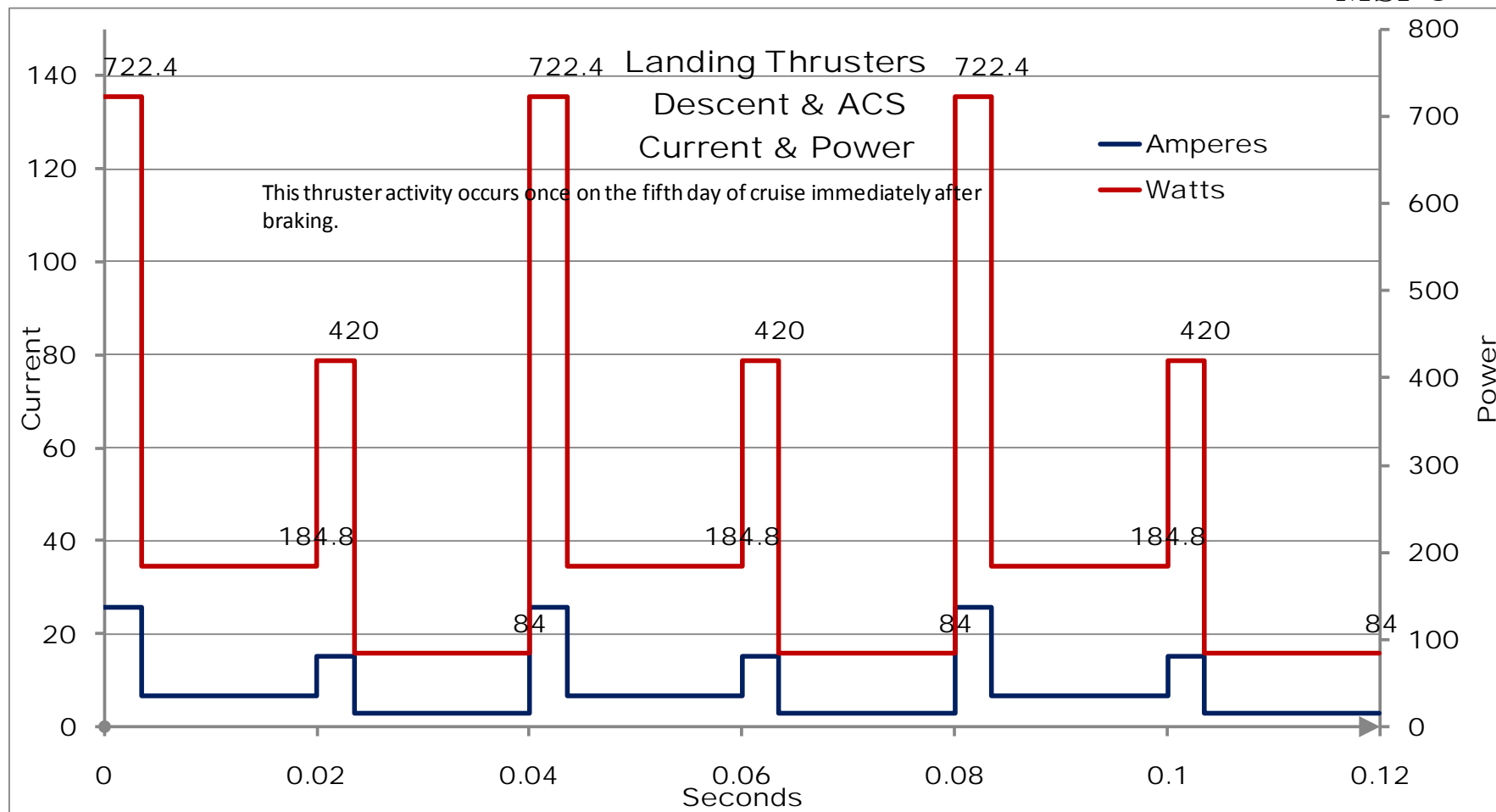


NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



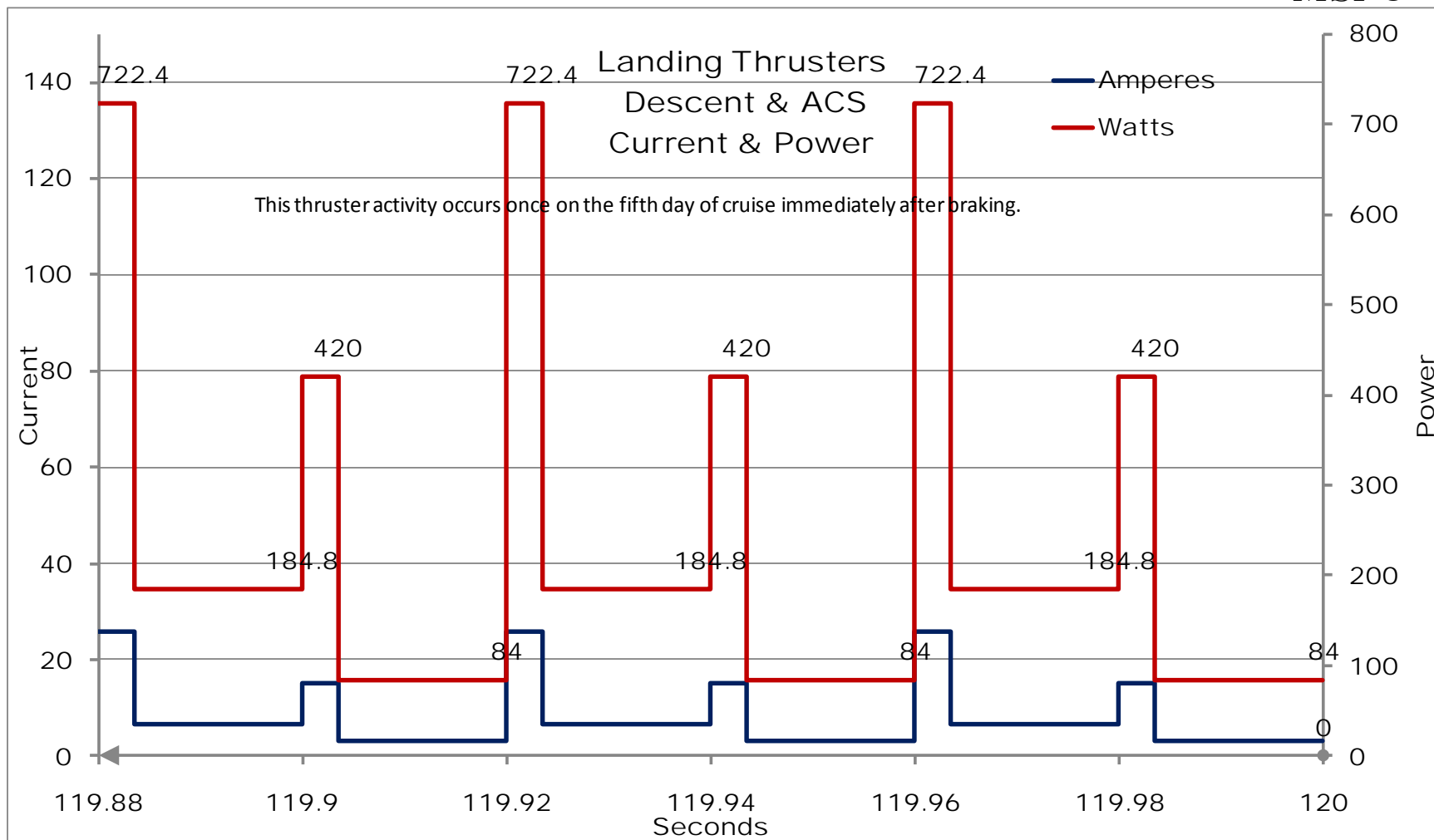
MSFC



# Lunar Polar Crater Floor



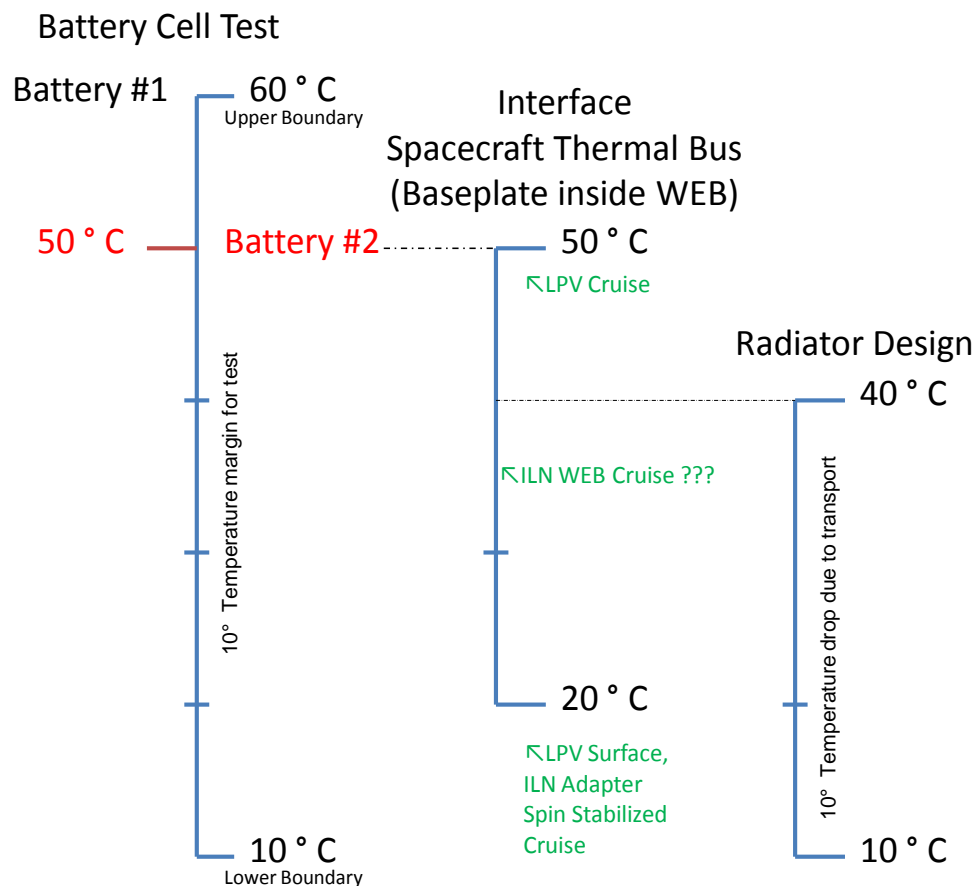
MSFC





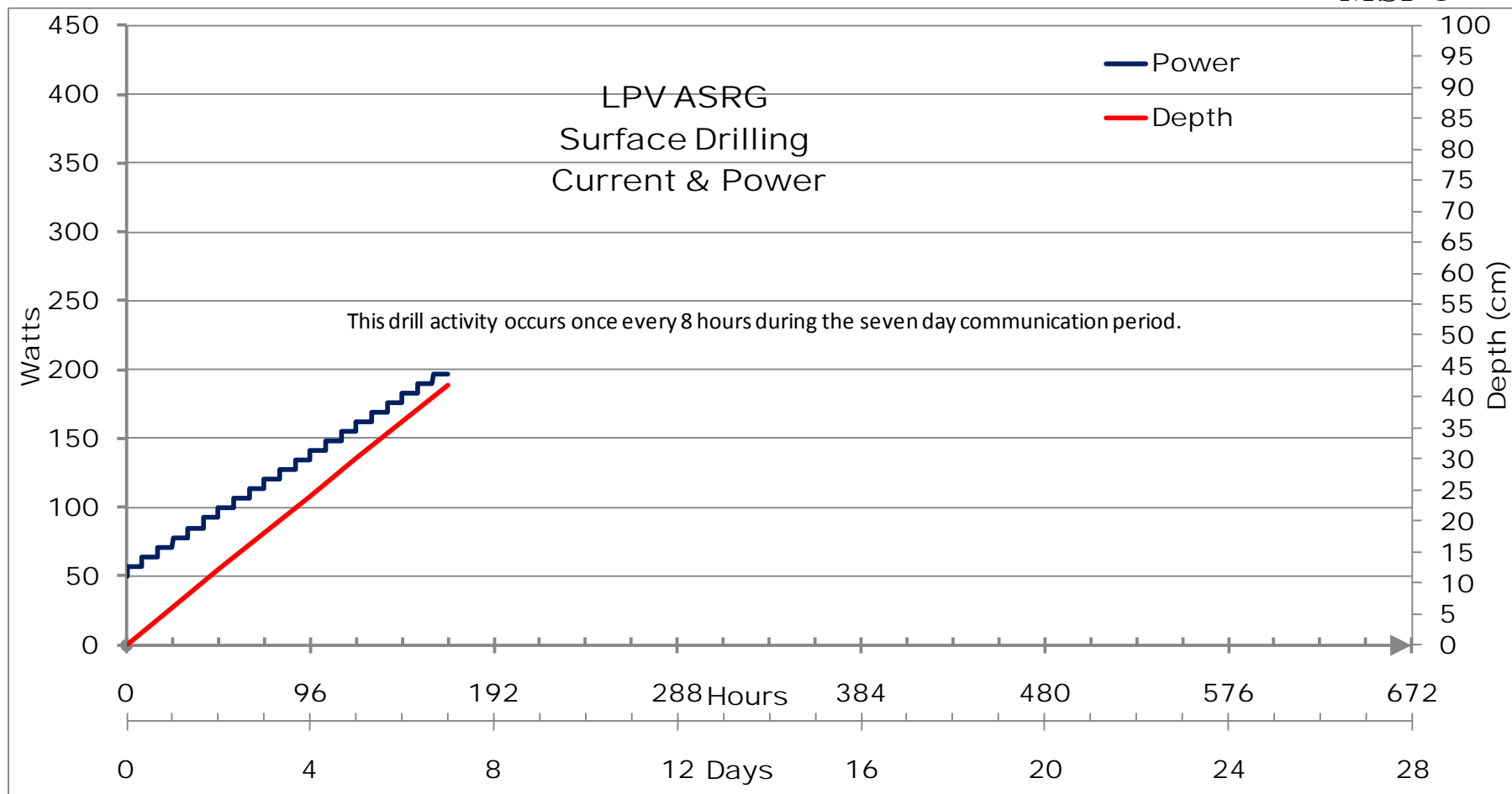
MSFC

## ILN/LPV ASRG/LiFePO<sub>4</sub> Battery Risk Reduction Testing





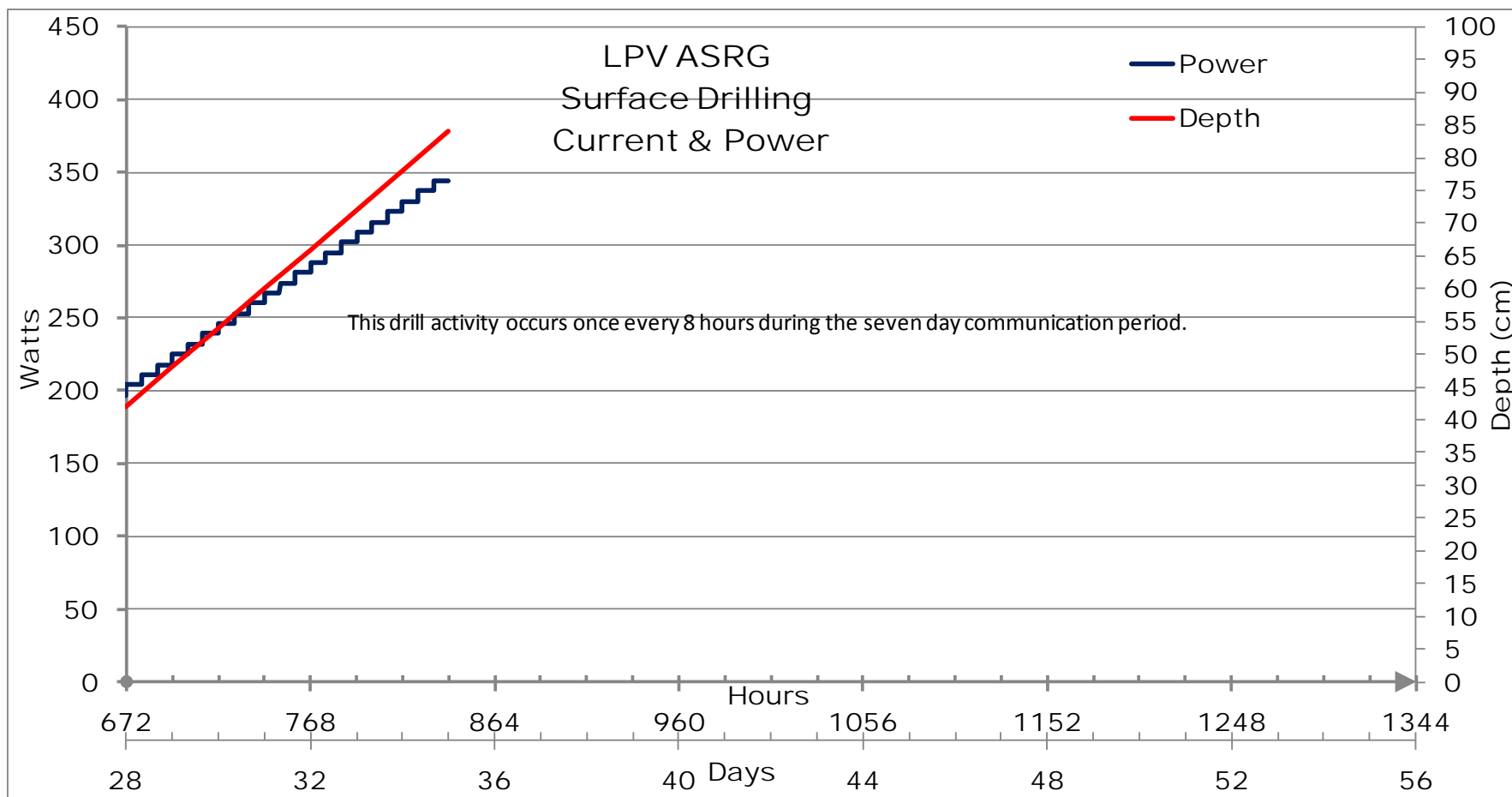
MSFC





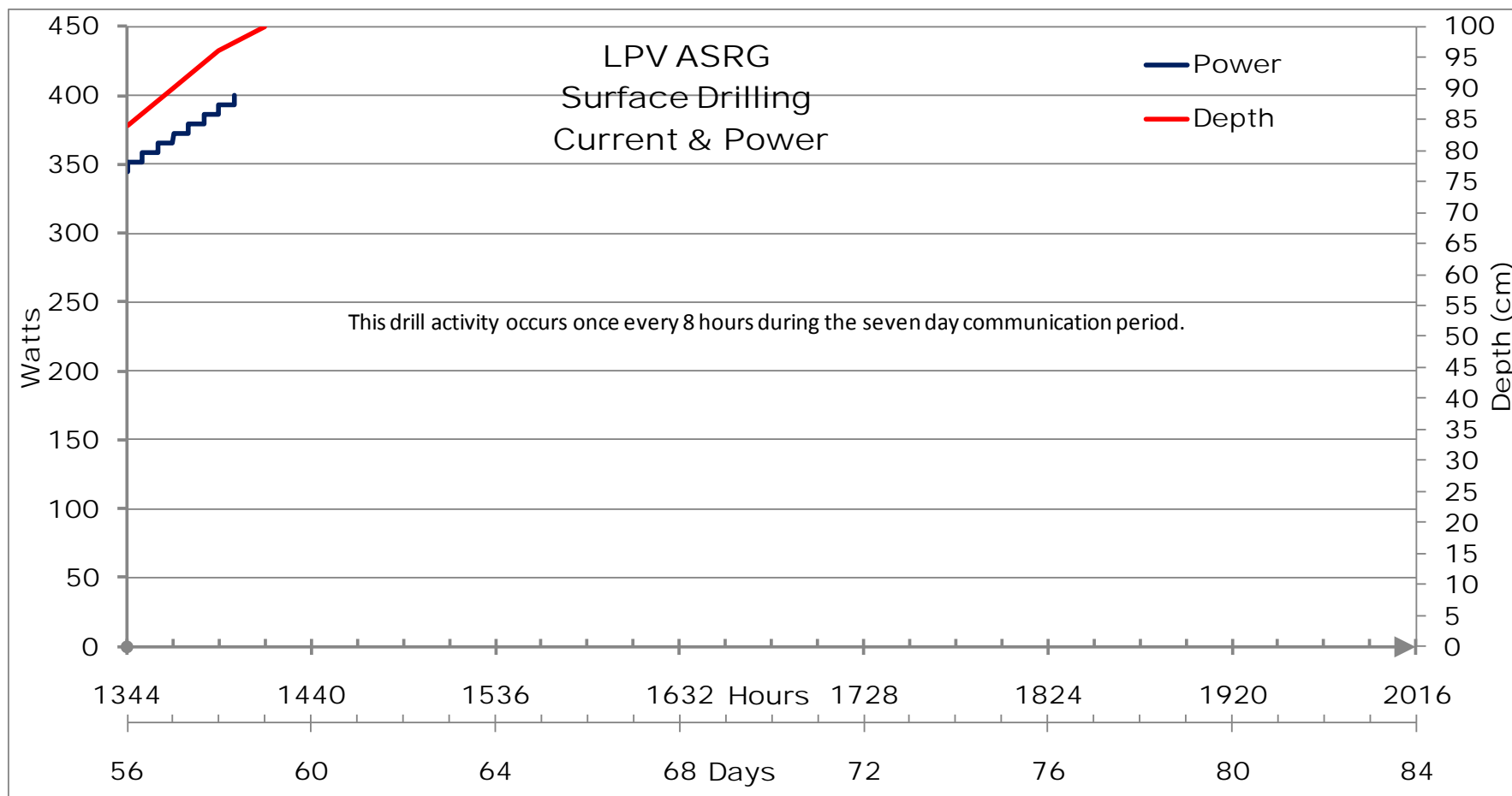


MSFC





MSFC



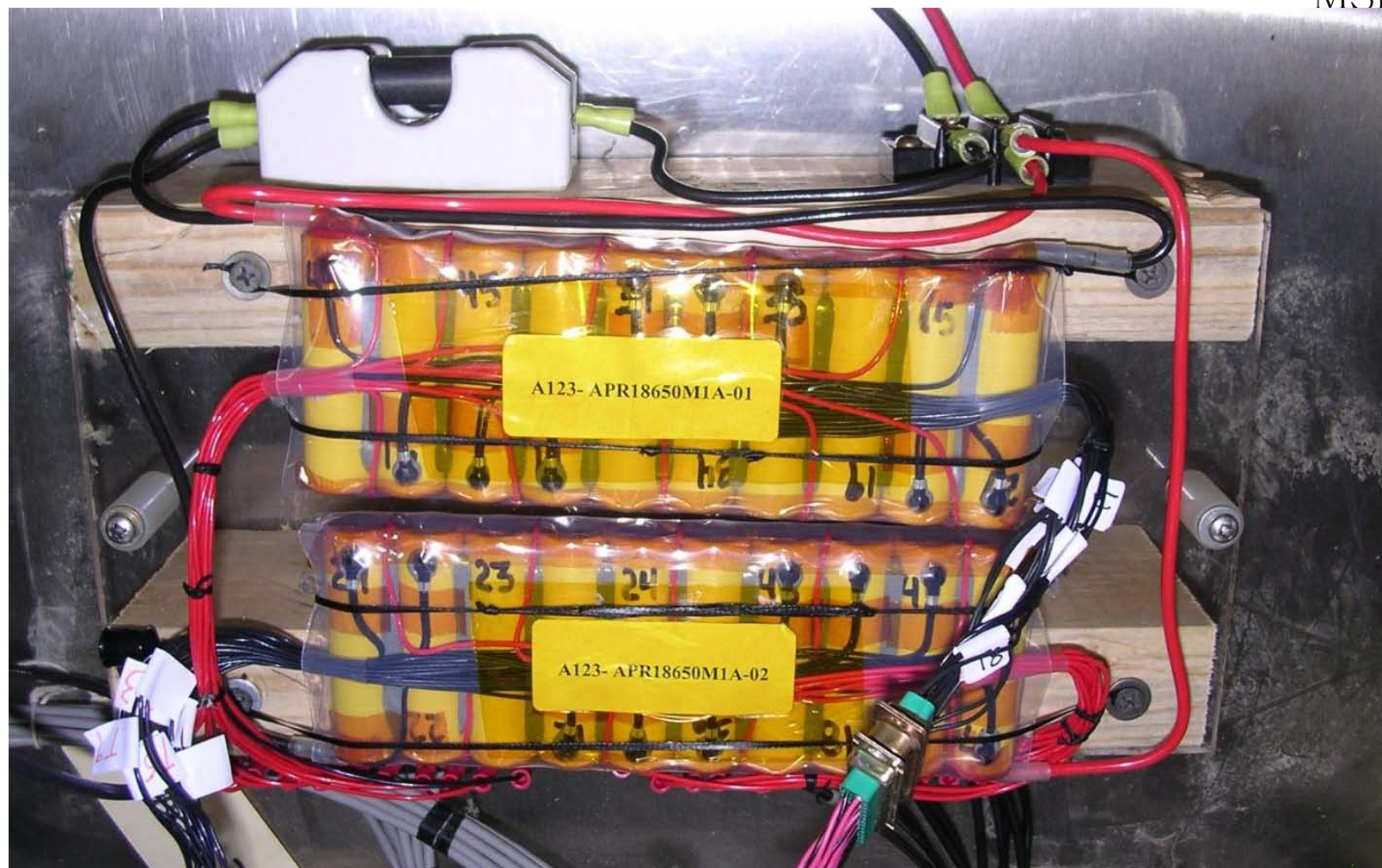


MSFC

## A123 APR18650M1A Cell



# Test battery ES41-10-ILN-TA-001 (10S2P) 2.2 Ahr

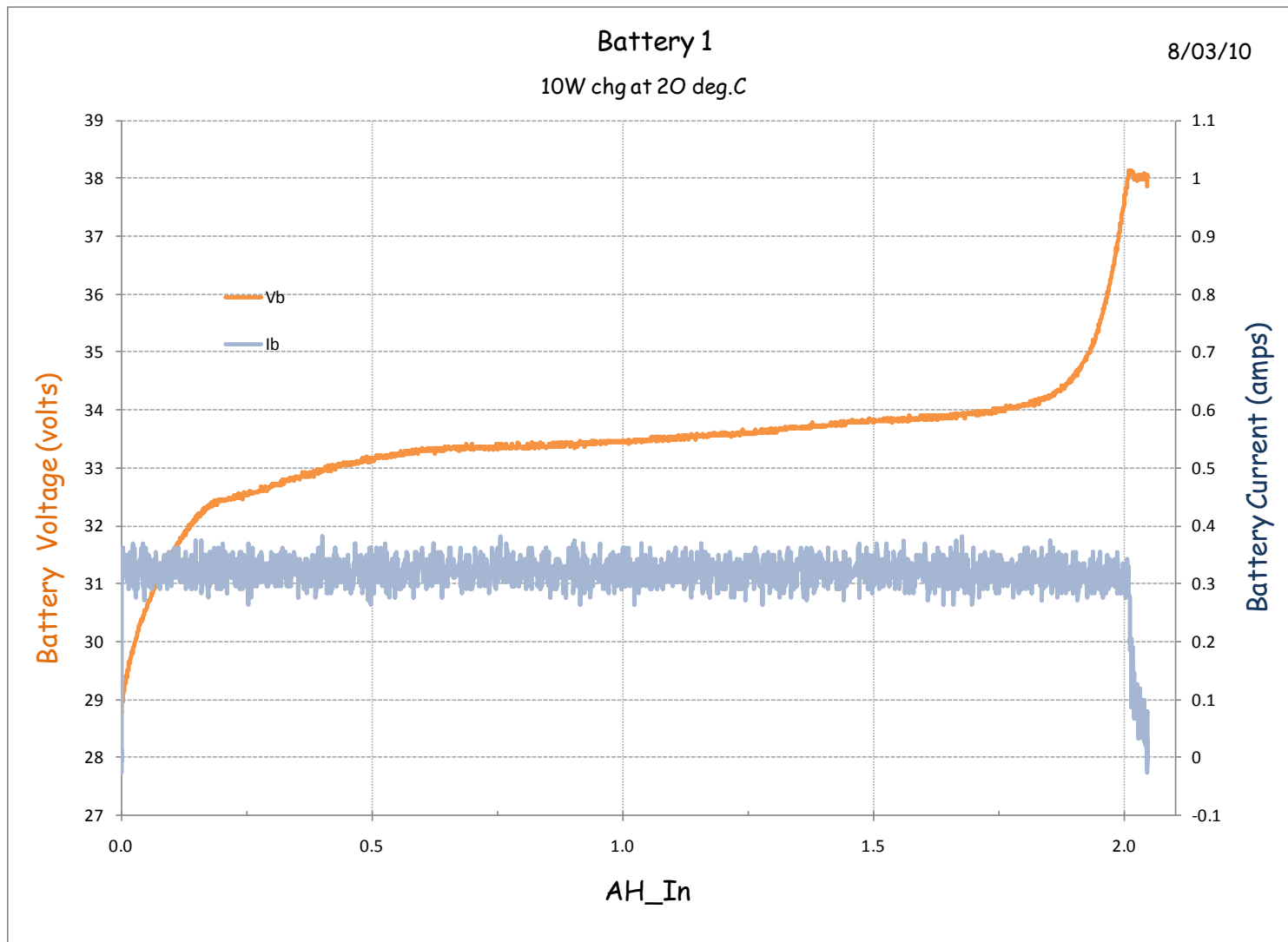


NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# Typical Battery Recharge



MSFC



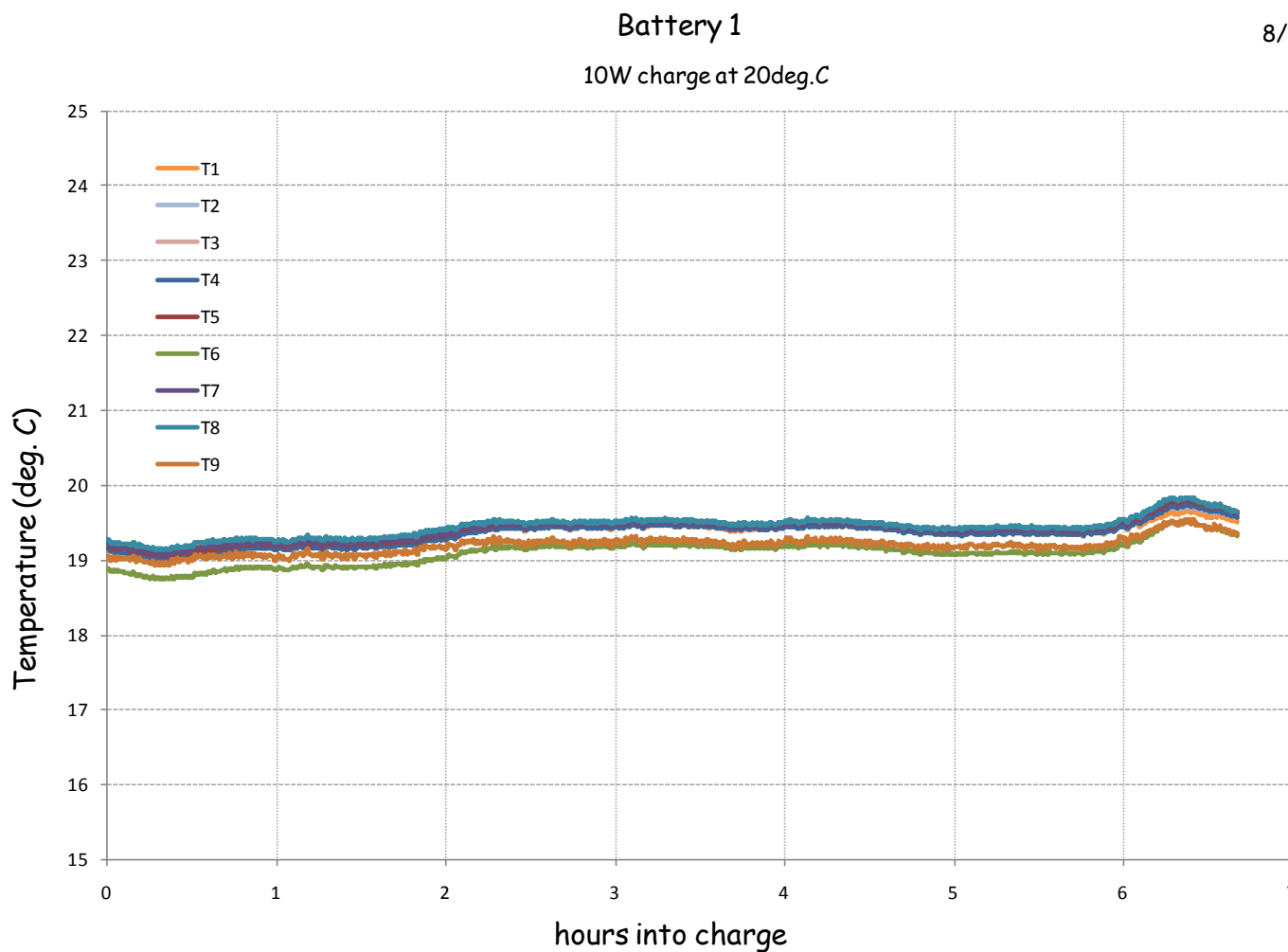
NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# Typical Battery Recharge



MSFC

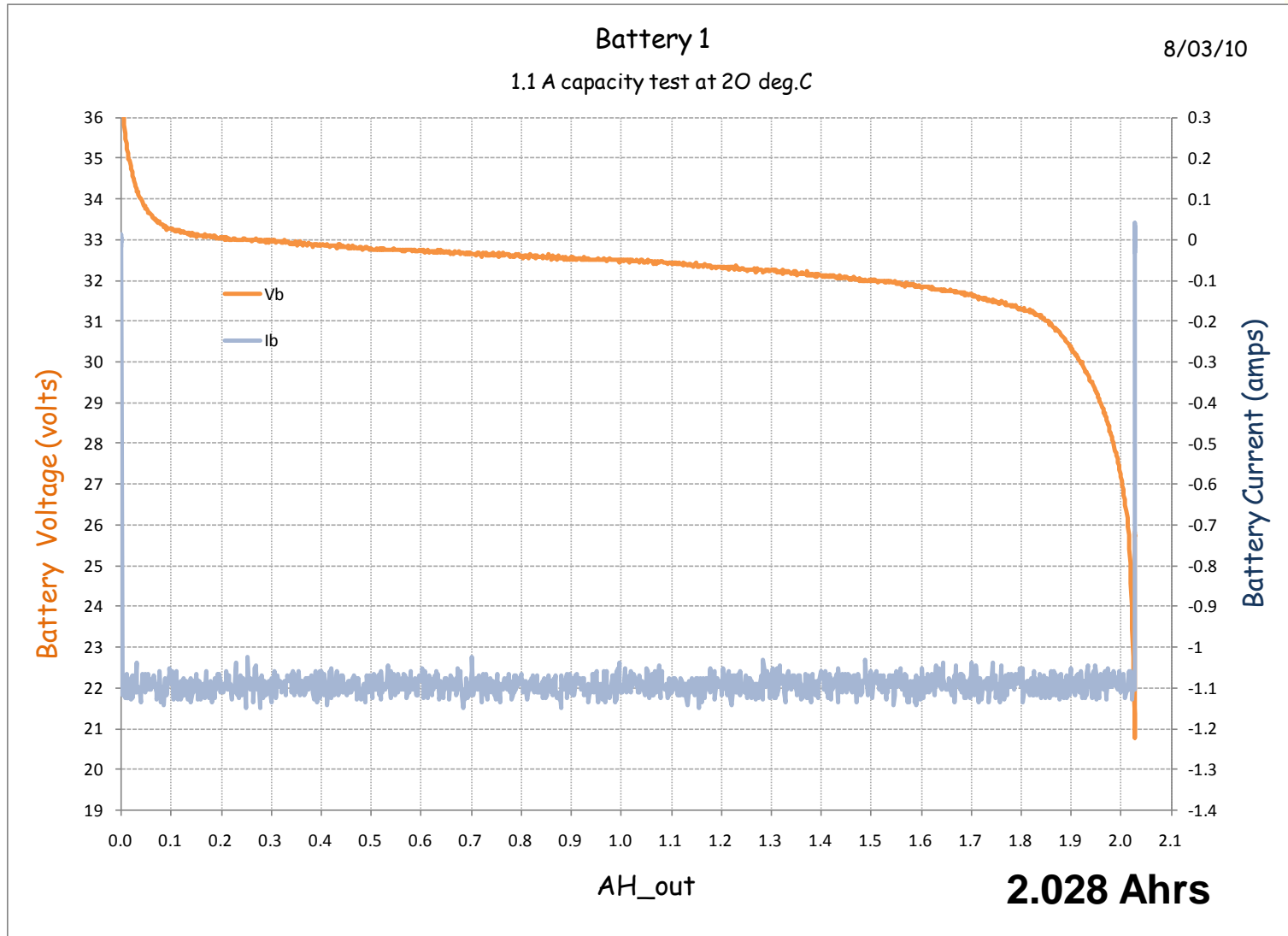
8/03/10



# Initial Battery Capacity



MSFC



NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011



# Initial Battery Capacity

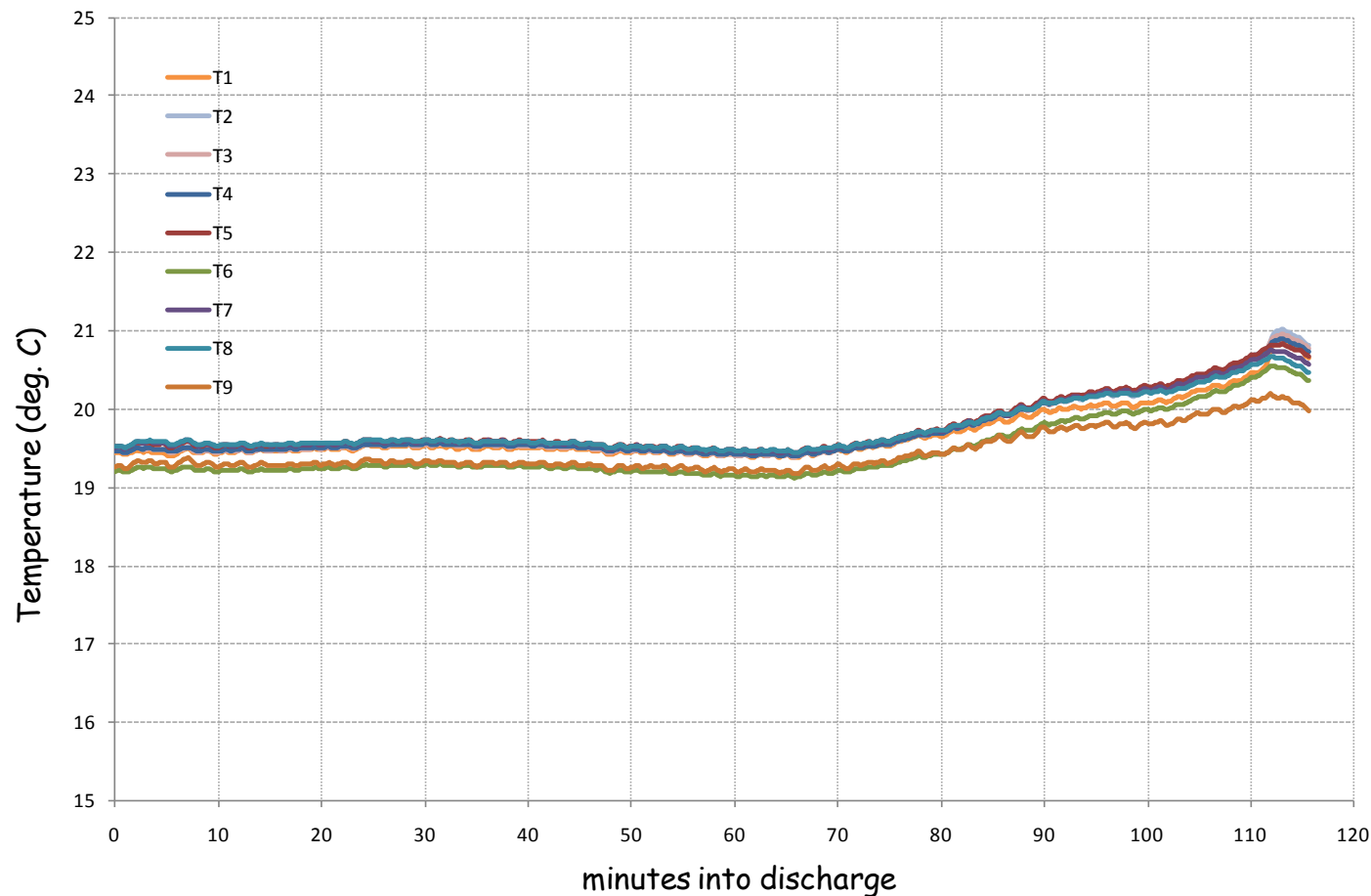


MSFC

Battery 1

8/03/10

1.1 A Capacity test at 20deg.C



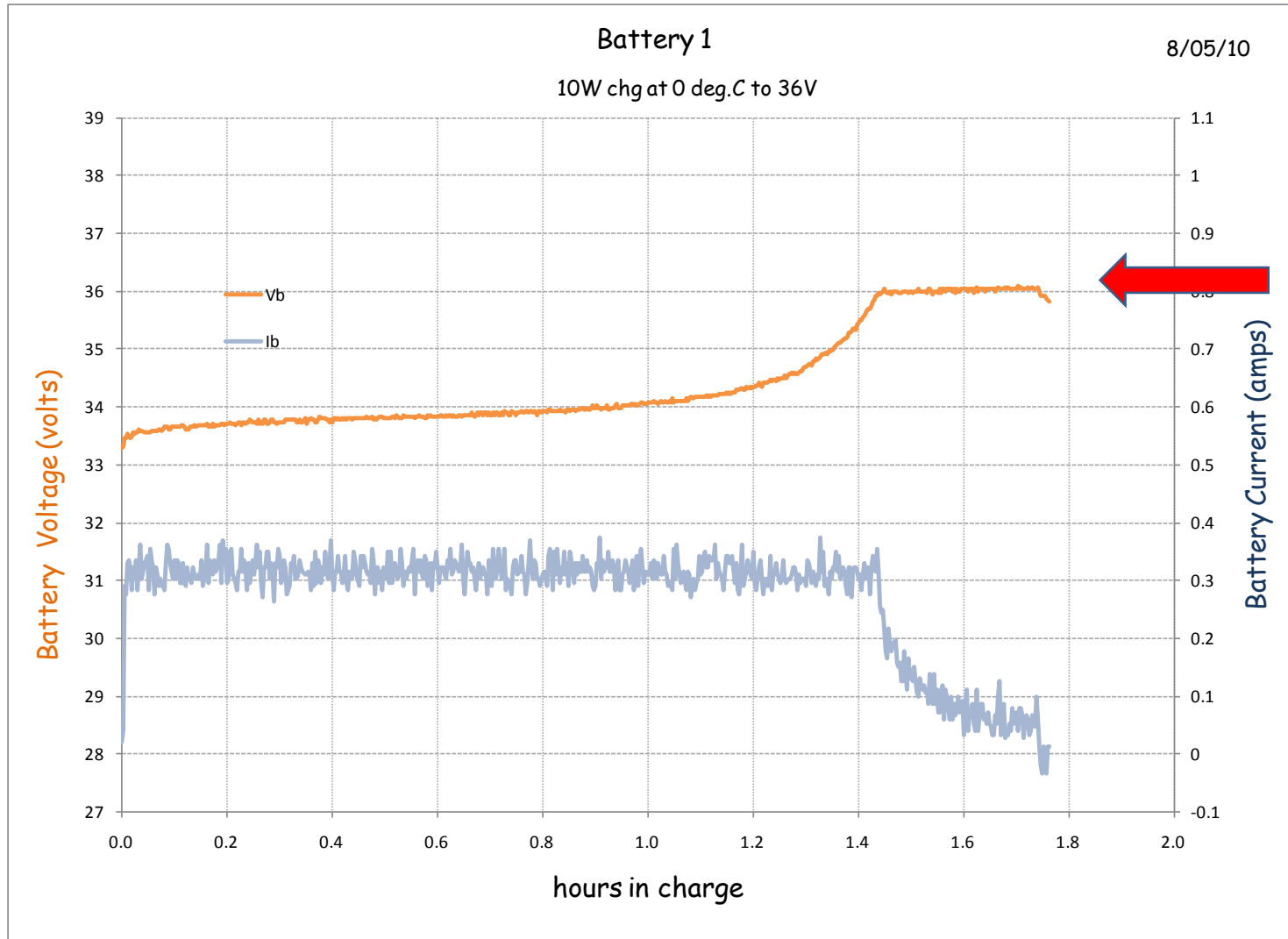


# Pulse Power Ability



MSFC

8/05/10



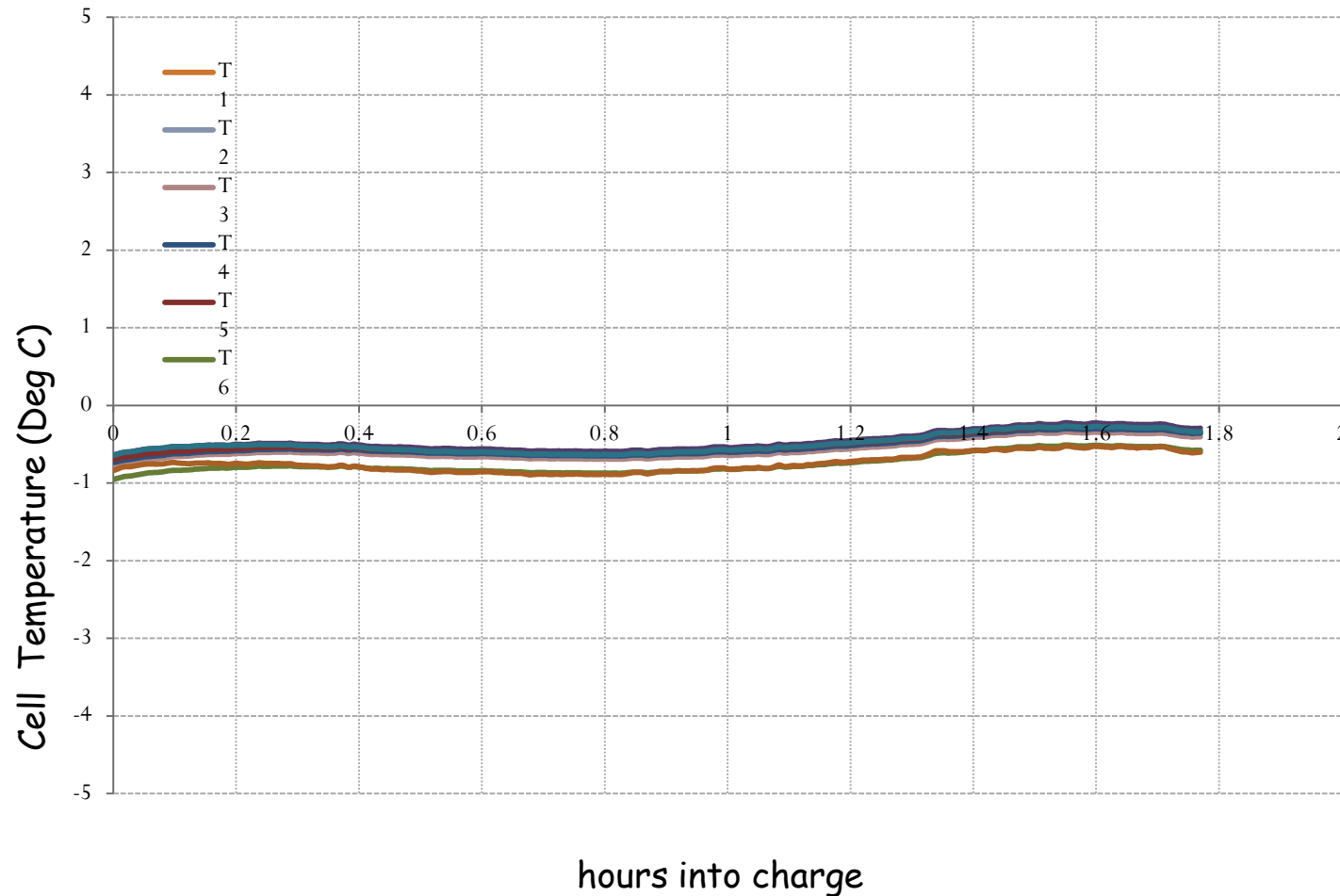
# Pulse Power Ability



8/05/10

MSFC

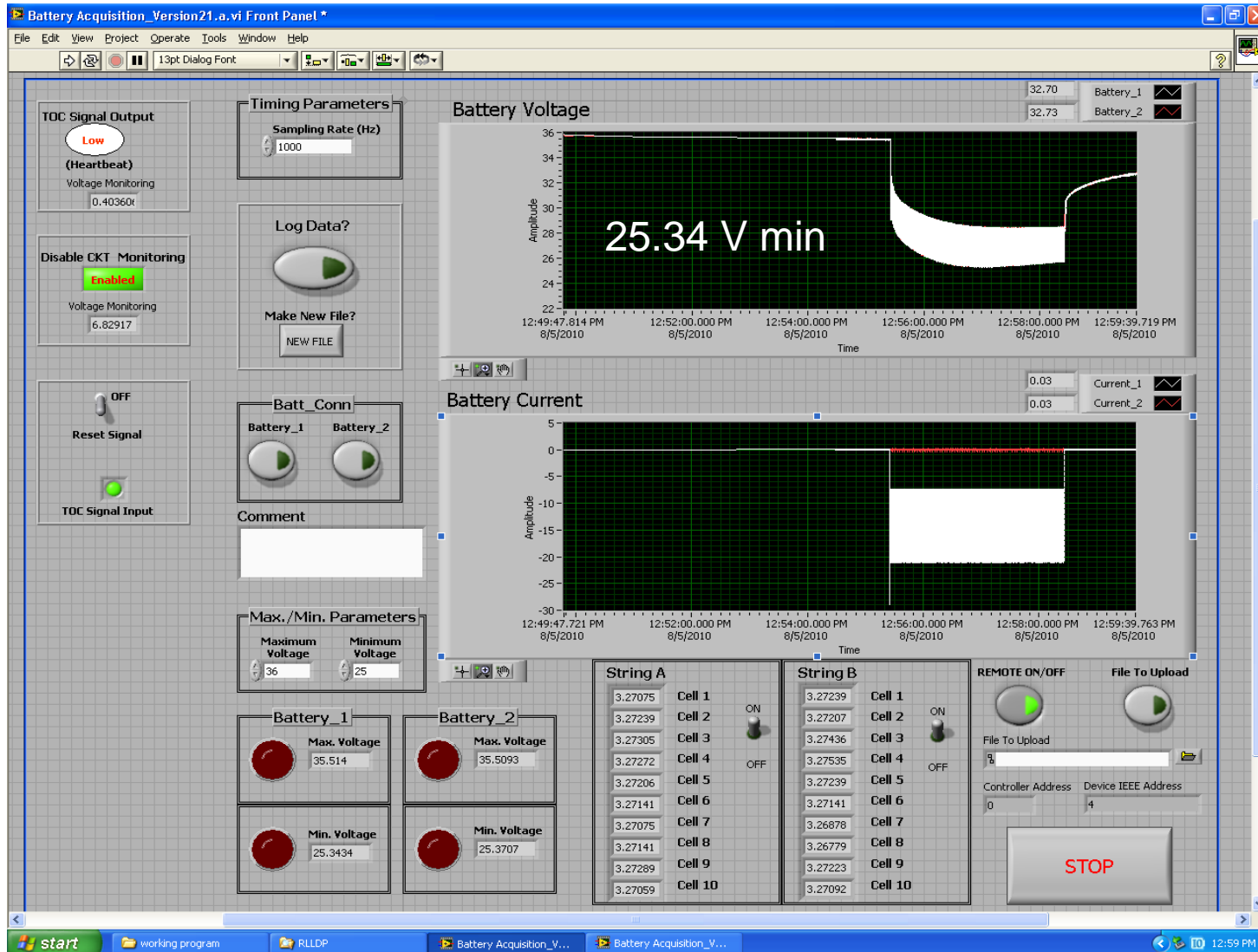
Battery 1  
10W charge at 0 deg.C



# Pulse Power Ability



MSFC

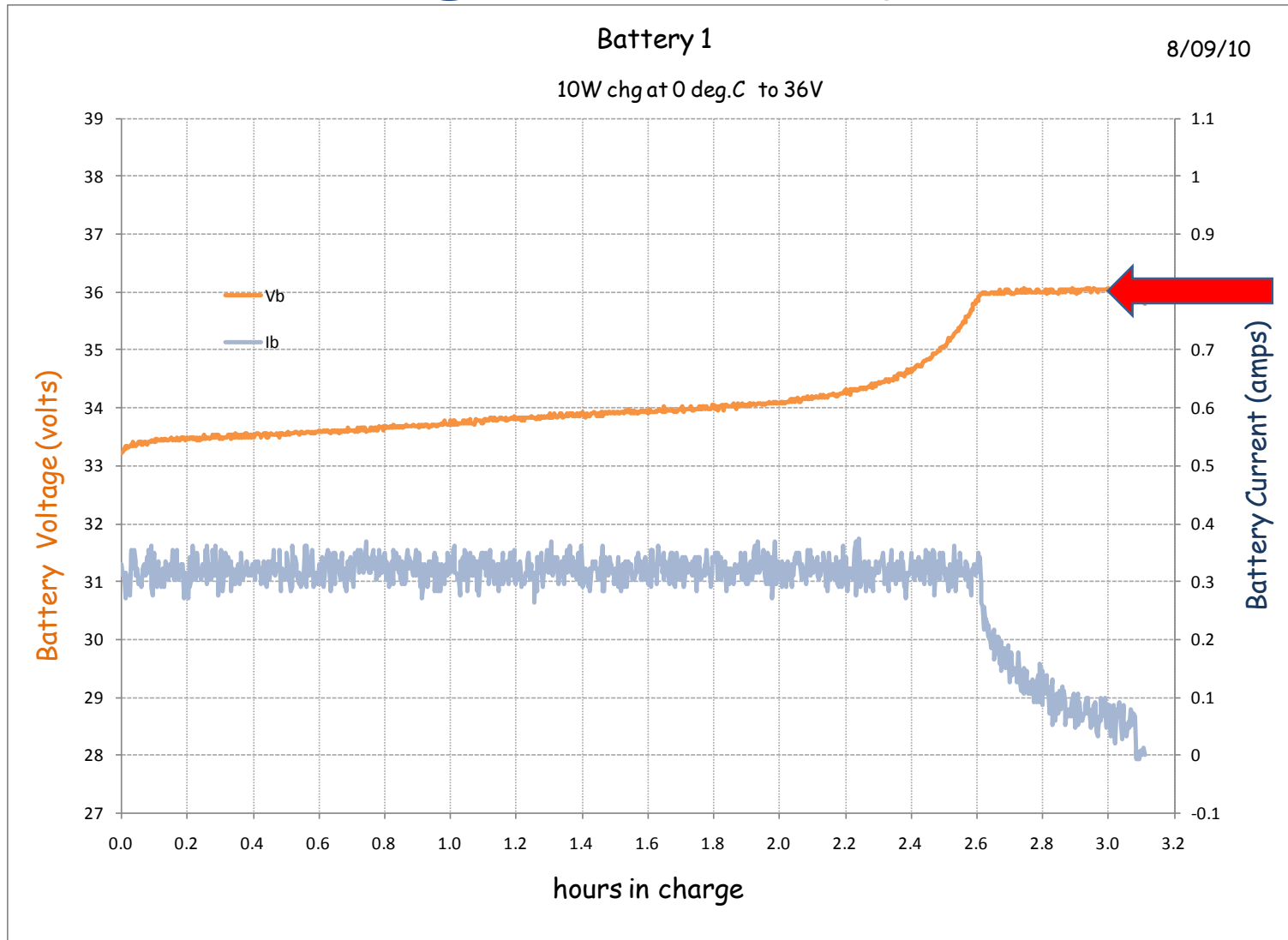


NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# High Power Ability



MSFC



# High Power Ability

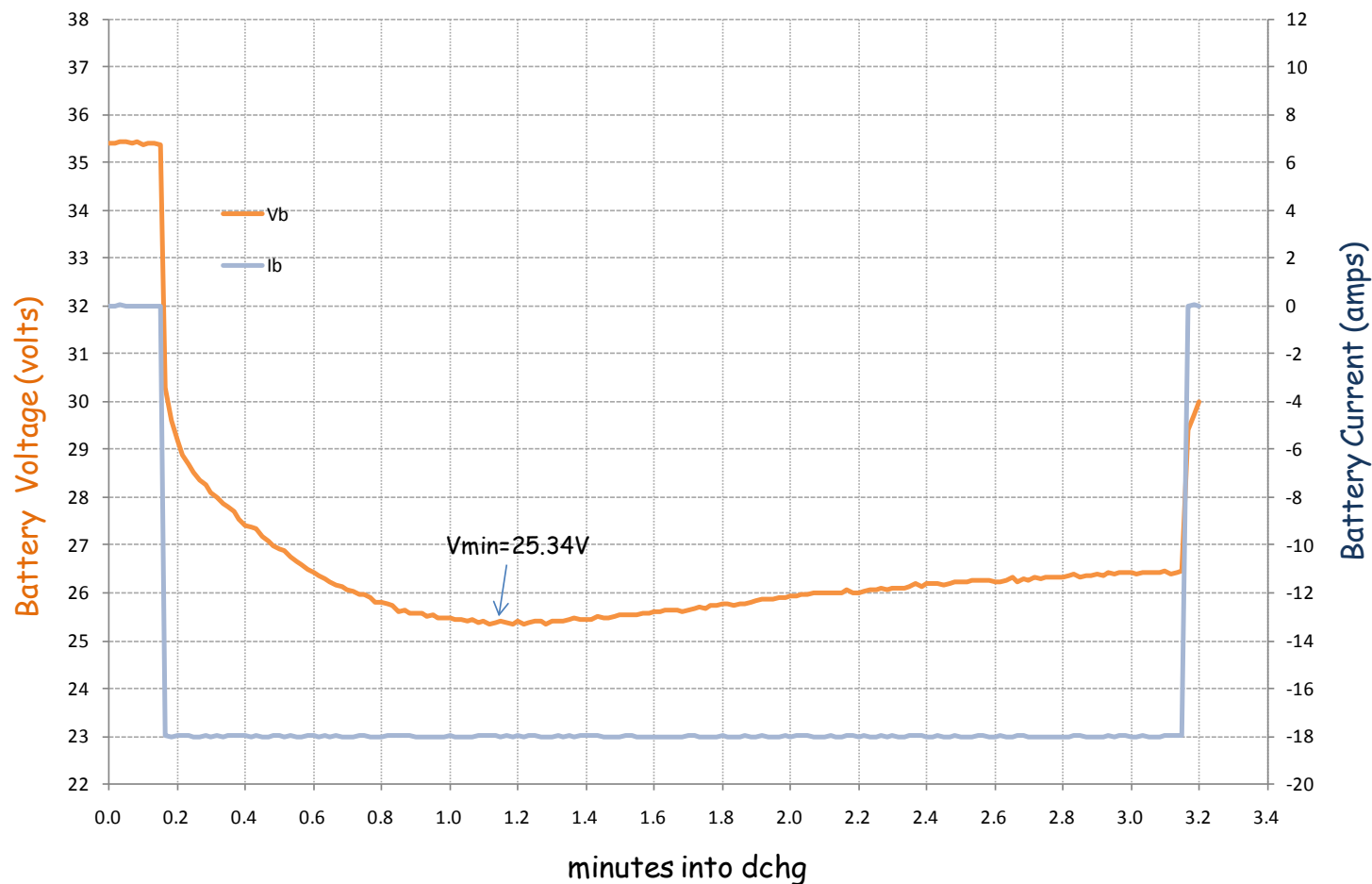


MSFC

Battery 1

8/09/10

450W 3 min discharge @5C after 36V chg



# High Power Ability

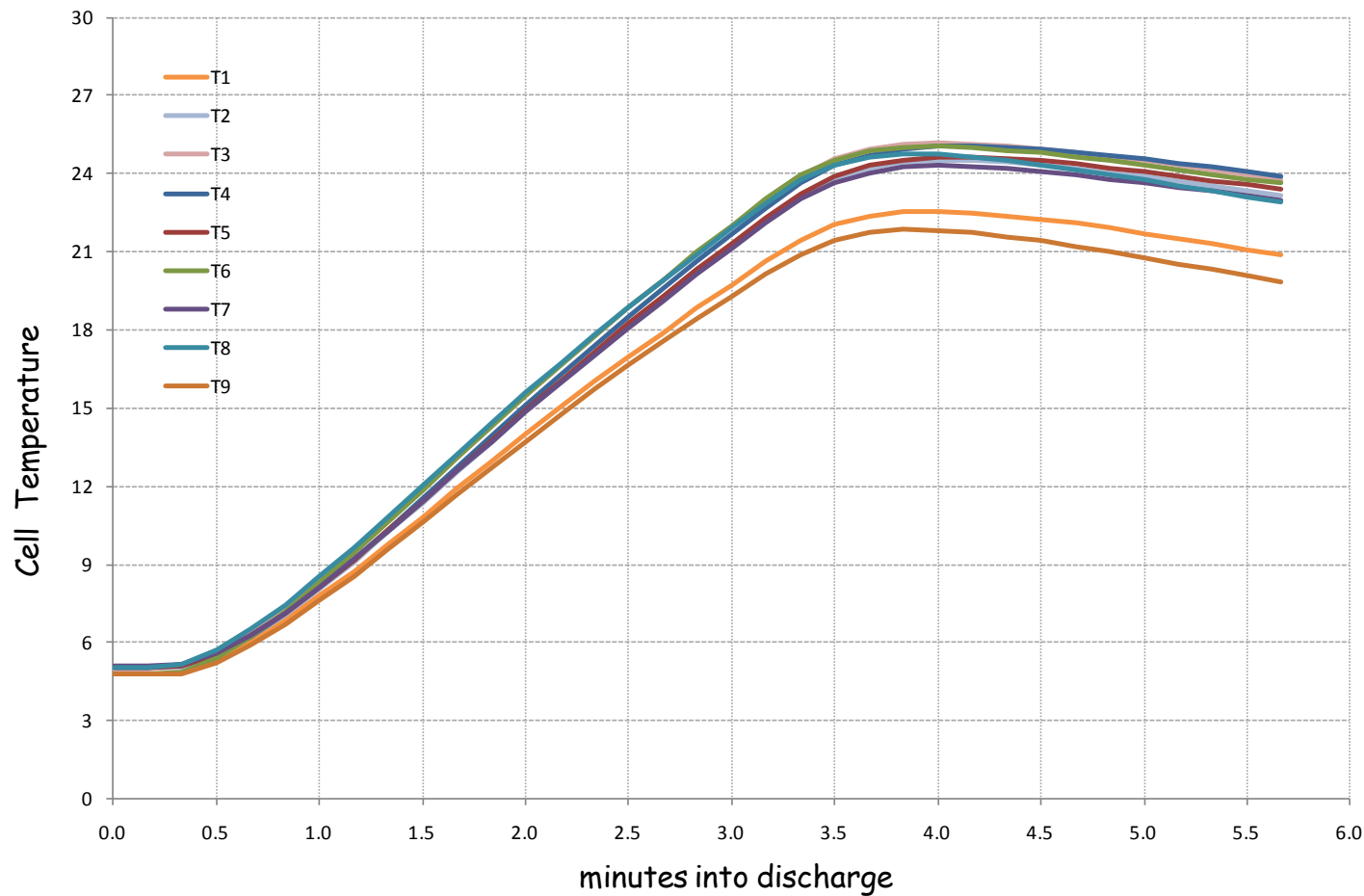


MSFC

Battery 1

8/09/10

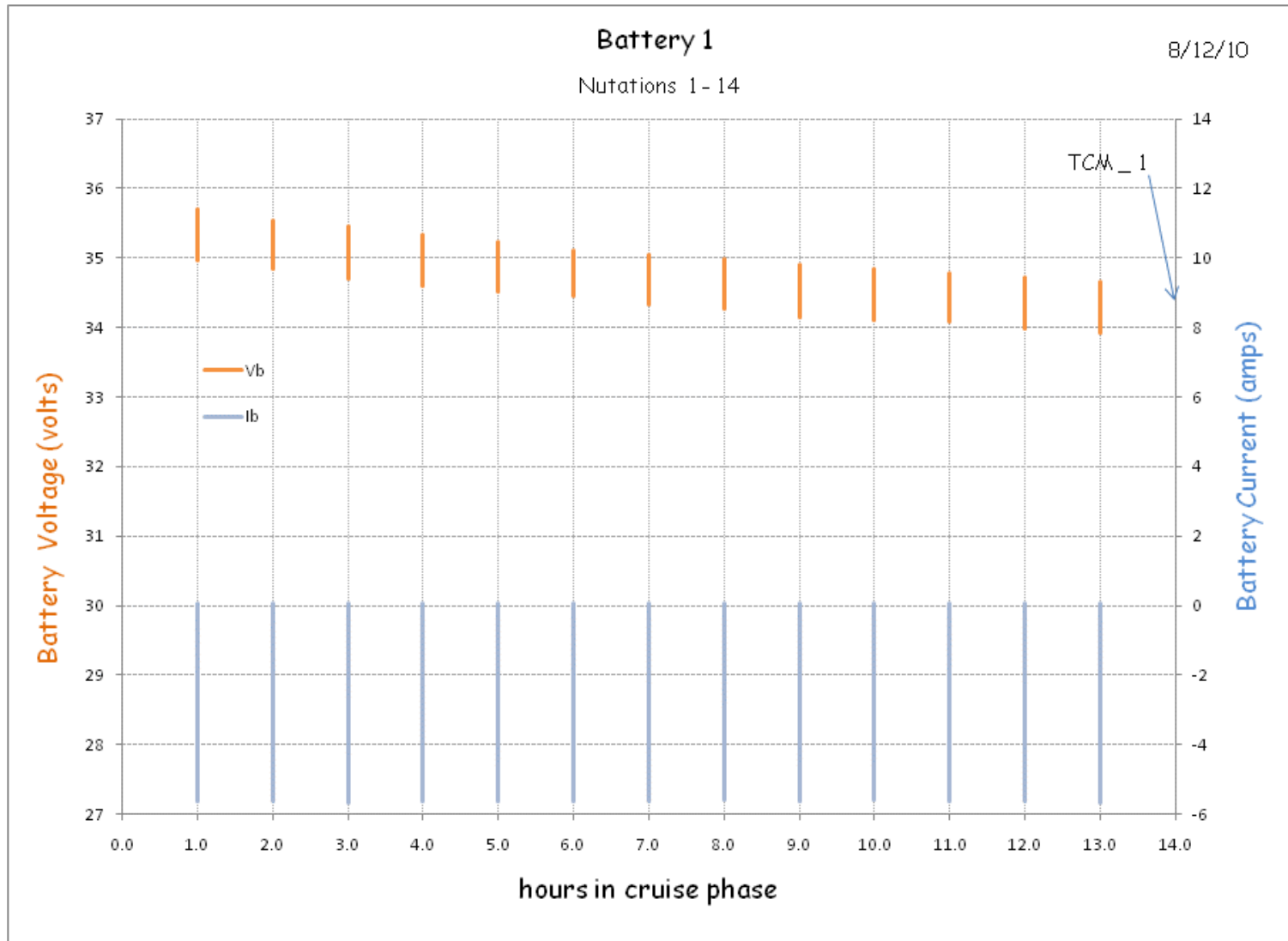
450W 3min discharge @ 0C after 36V charge



# 40° C Cruise Phase



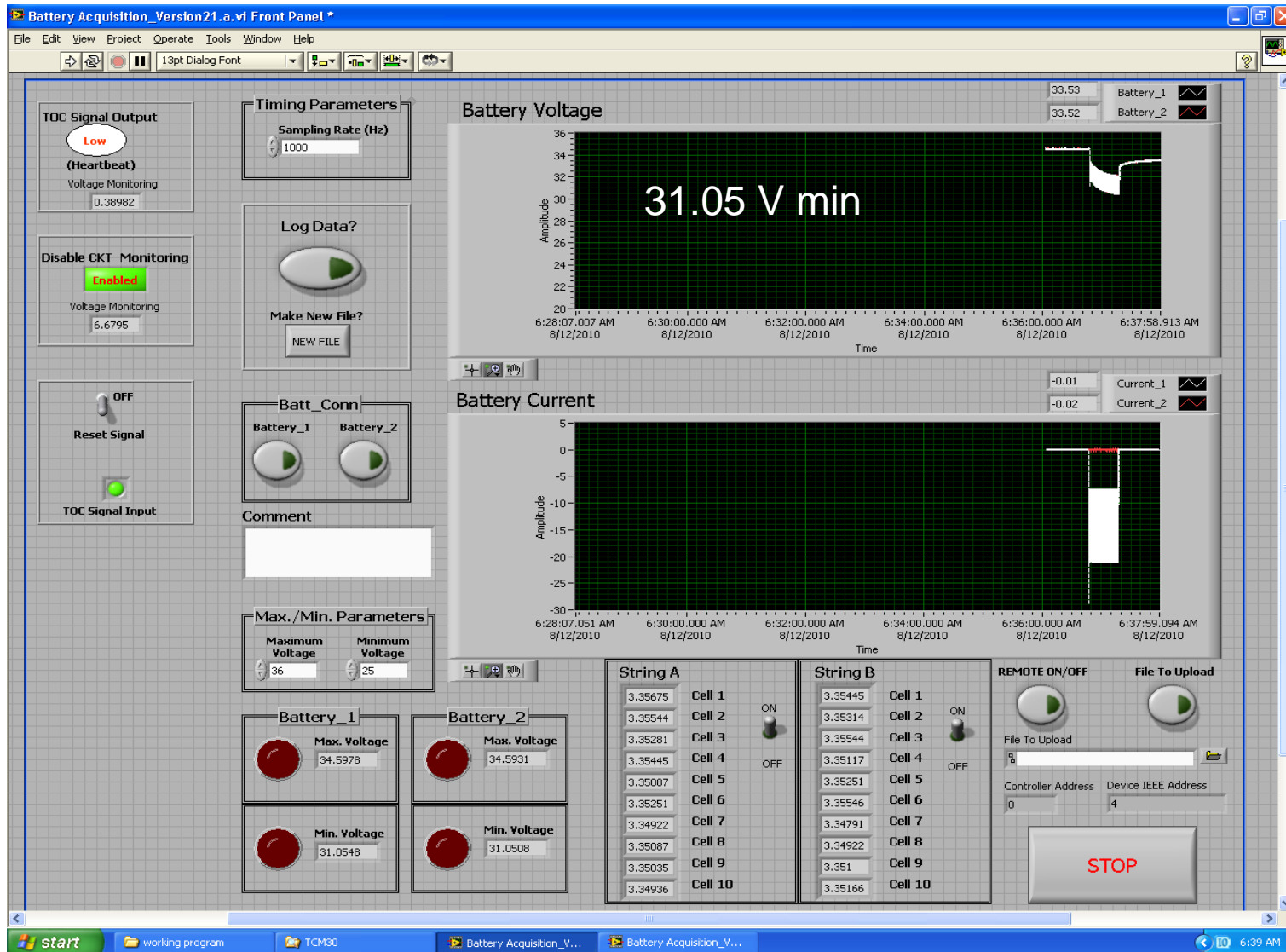
MSFC



# 40° C Cruise Phase



MSFC



NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011



# 40° C Cruise Phase

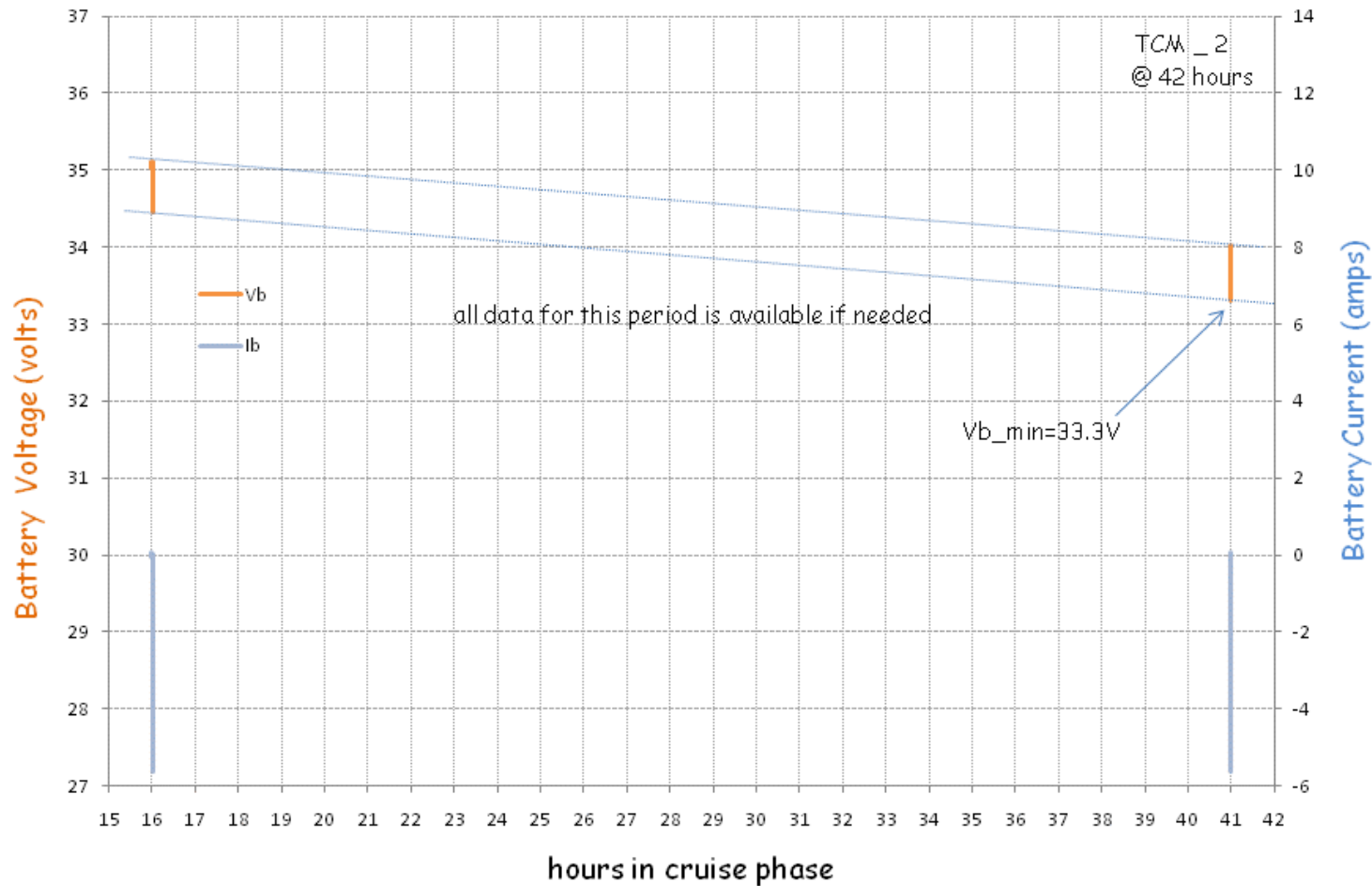


MSFC

Battery 1

8/13/10

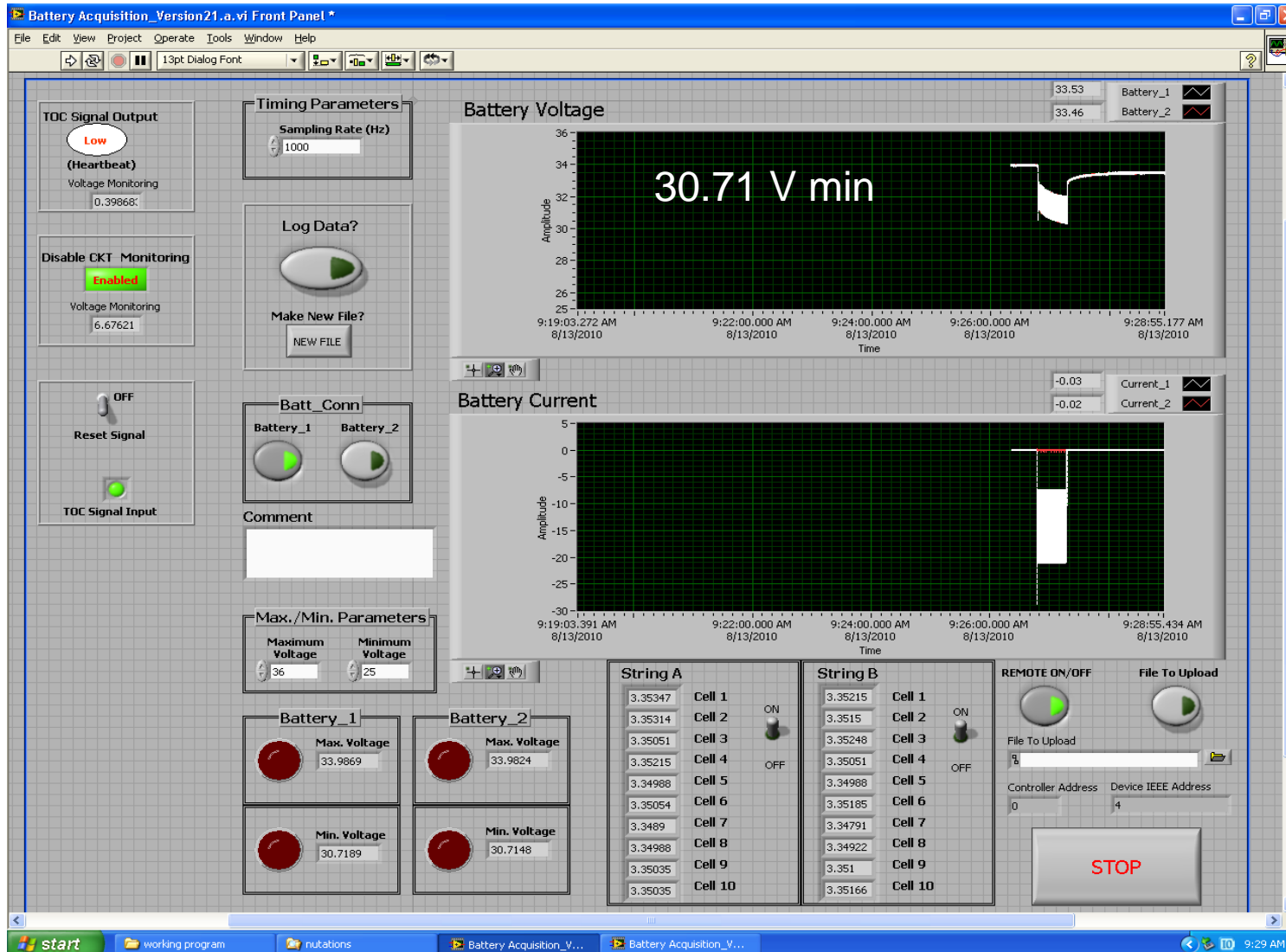
Nutations 16 - 41



# 40° C Cruise Phase



MSFC

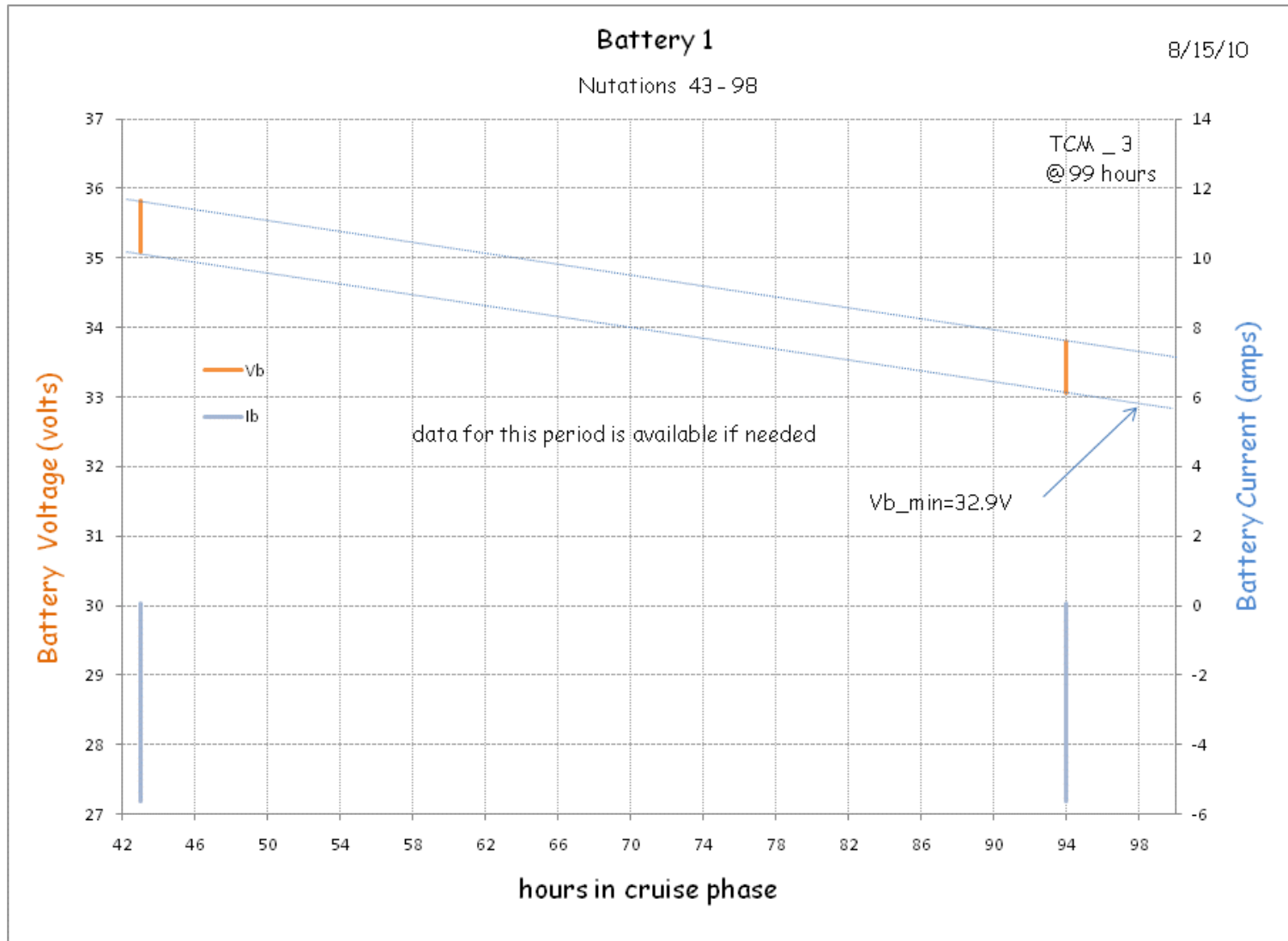


NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# 40° C Cruise Phase



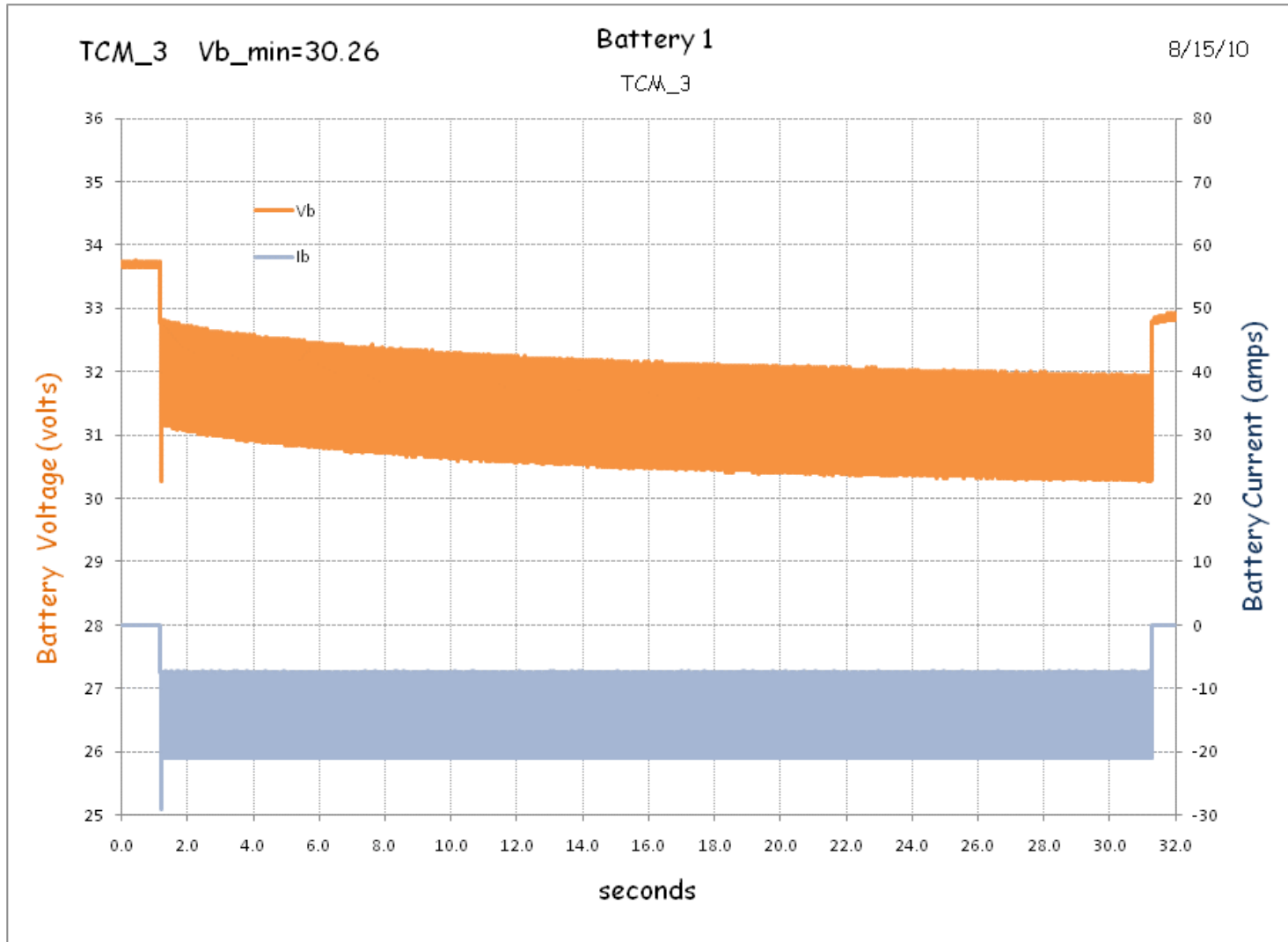
MSFC



# 40° C Cruise Phase



MSFC



# 40° C Cruise Phase

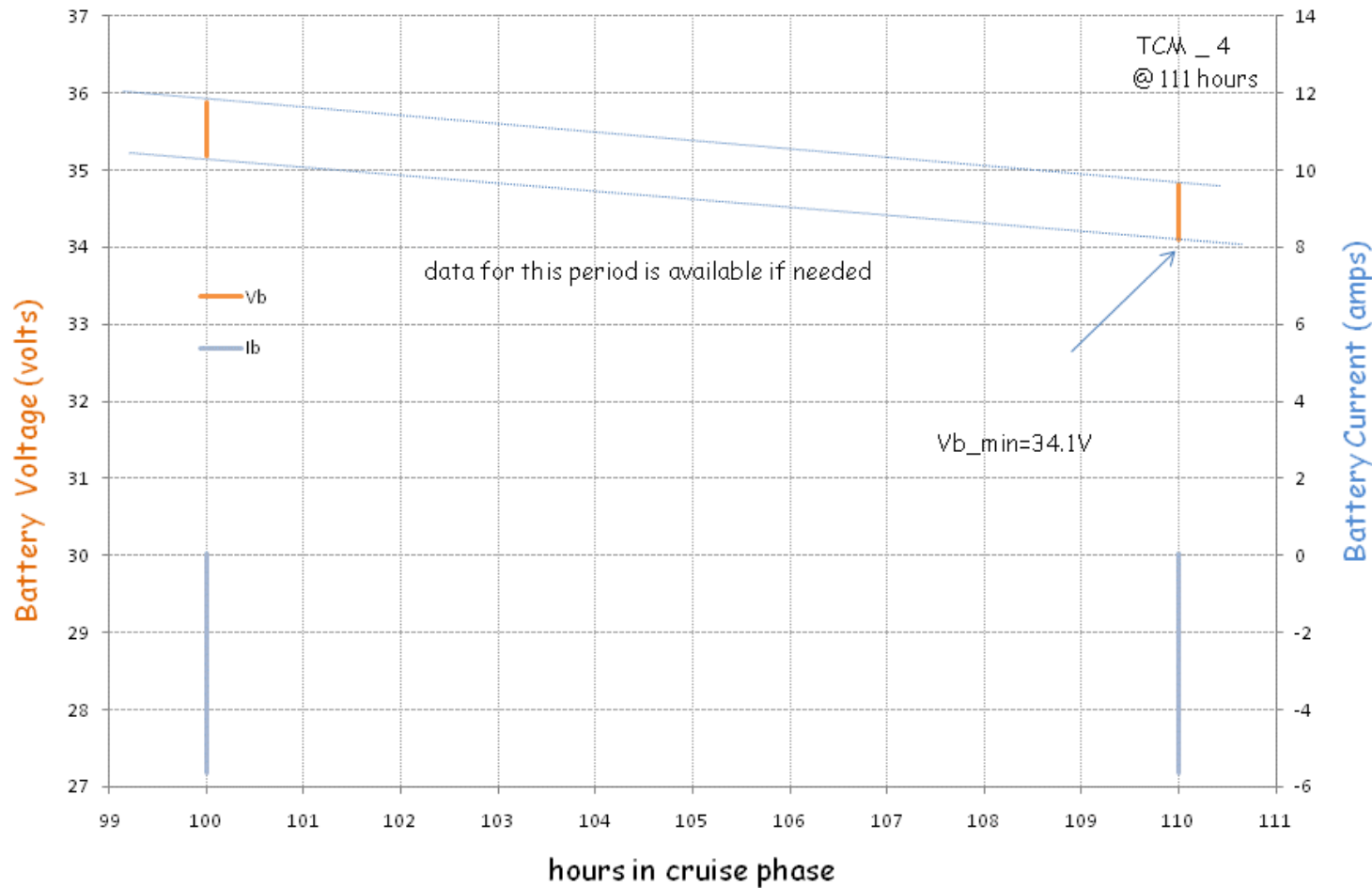


MSFC

Battery 1

8/16/10

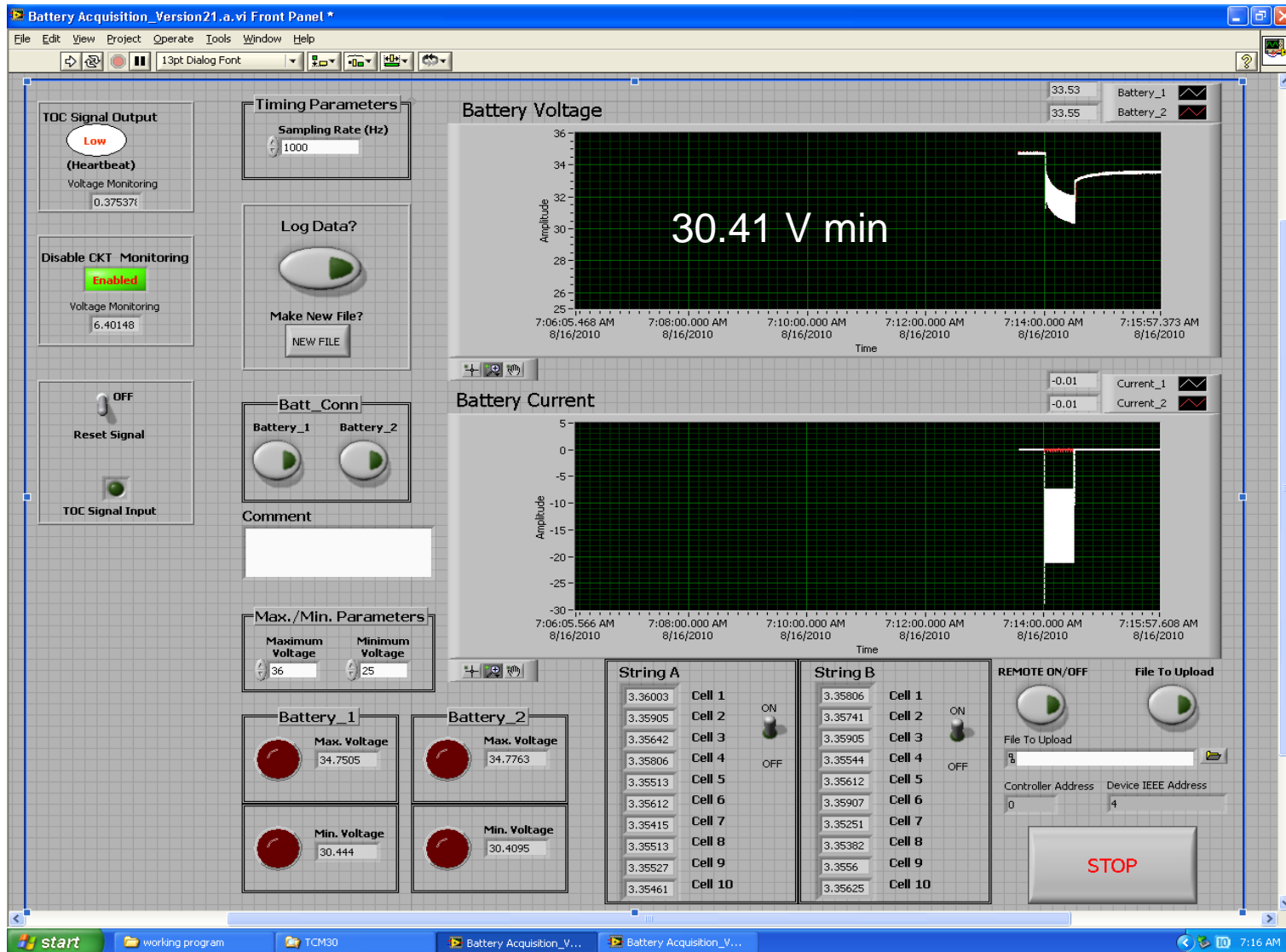
Nutations 100 - 110



# 40° C Cruise Phase



MSFC

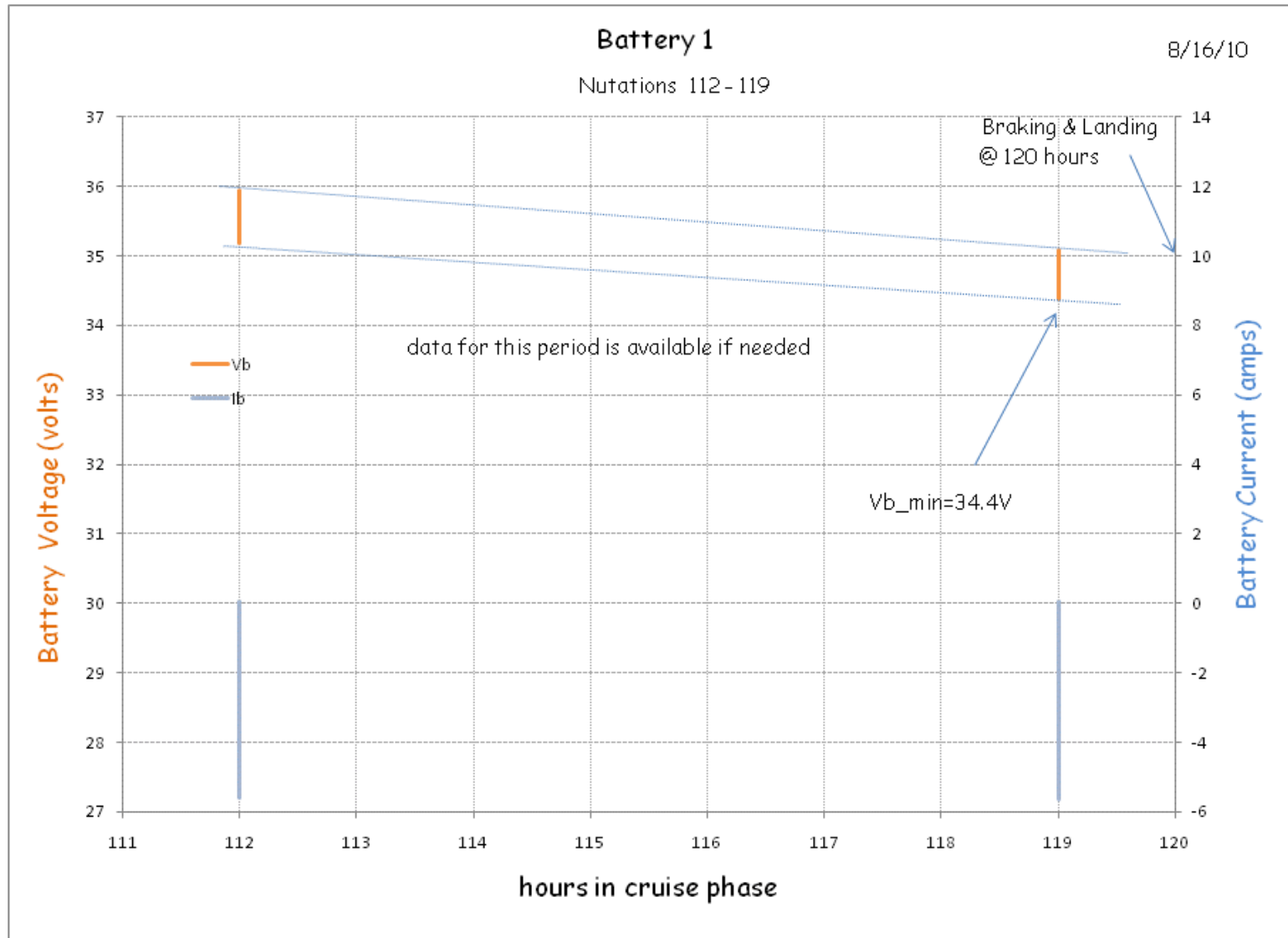


NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# 40° C Cruise Phase



MSFC

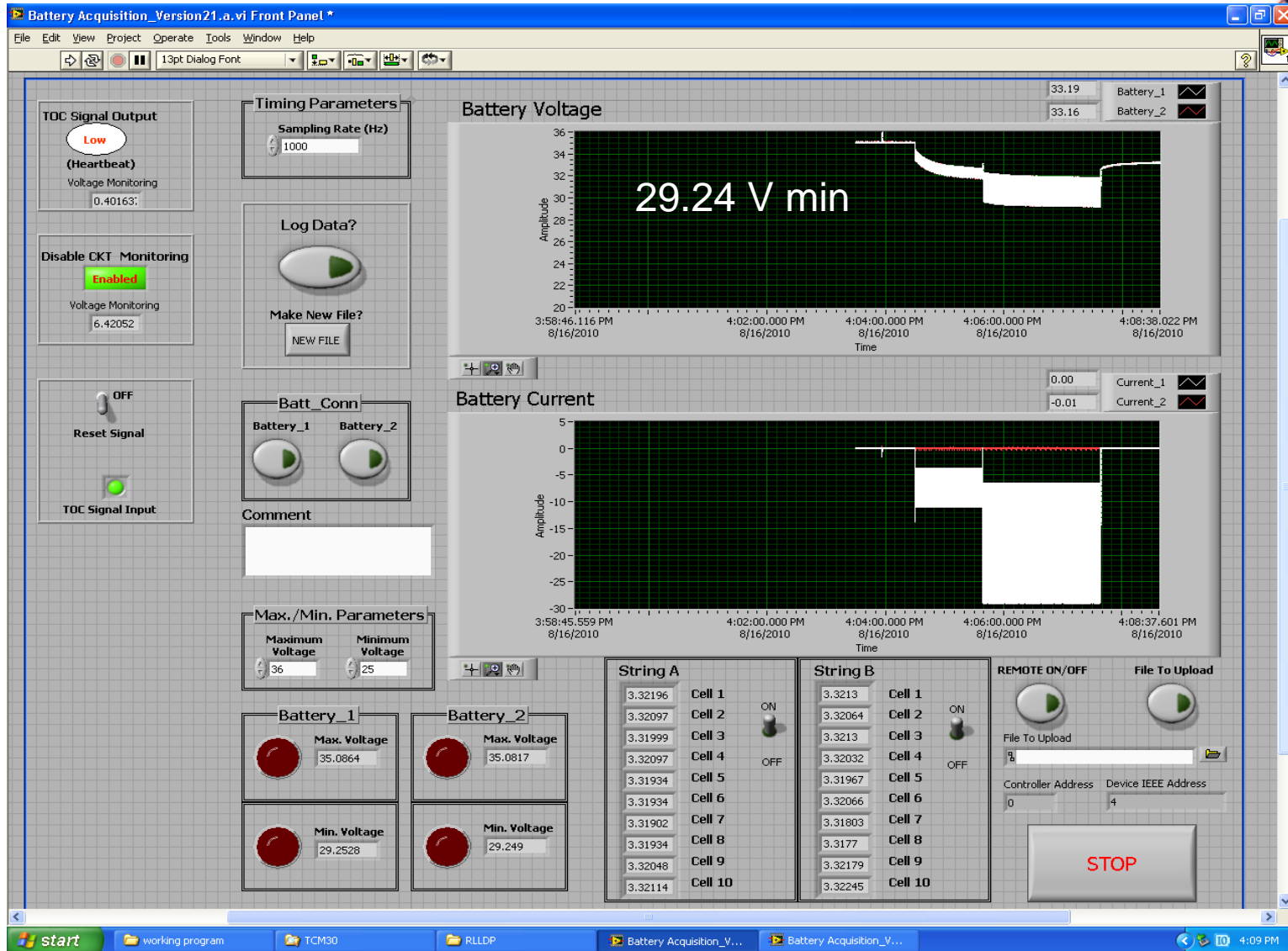


NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

# 40° C Cruise Phase



MSFC



NASA Aerospace Battery workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011



# Surface Drilling Phase



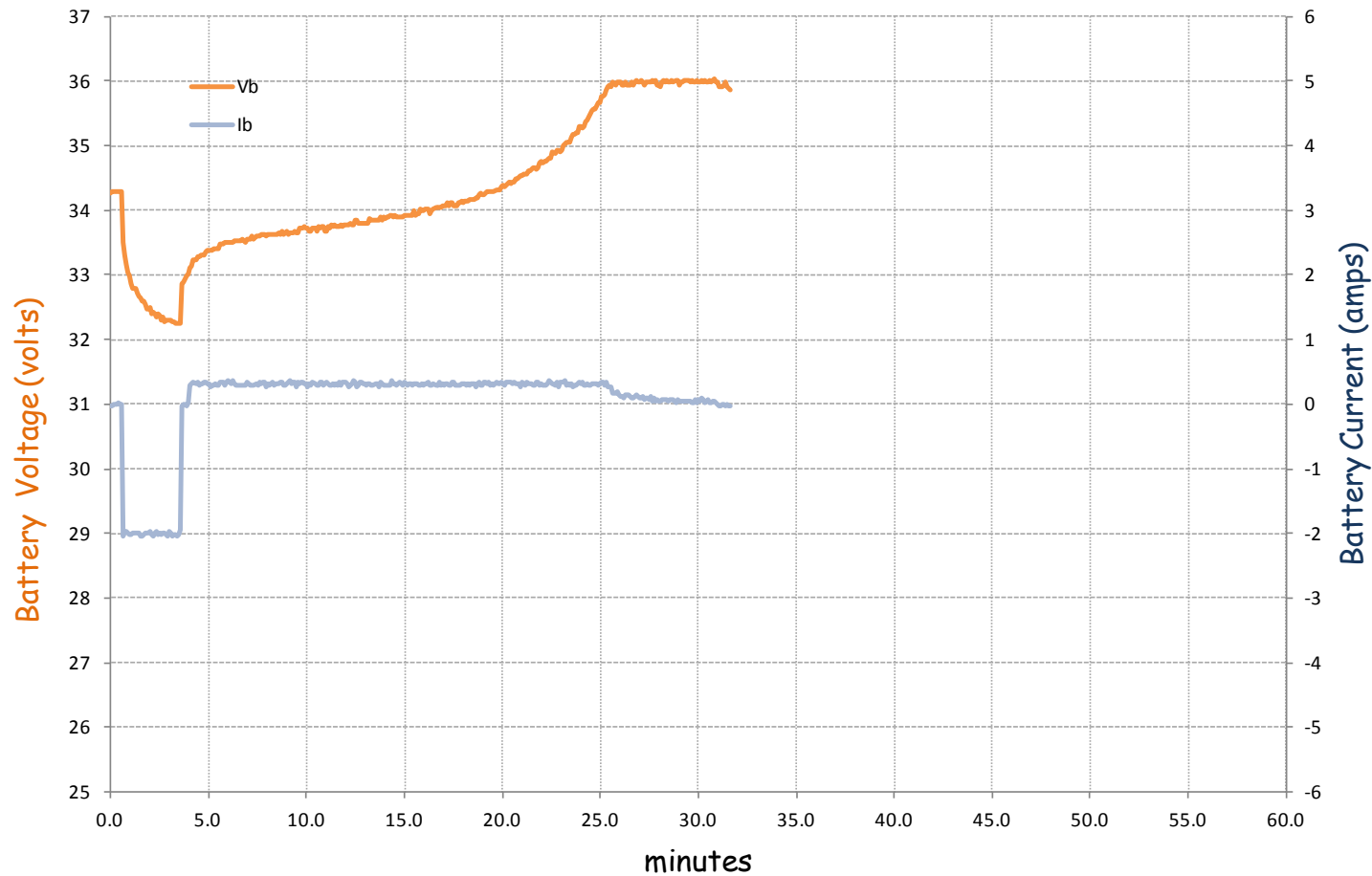
MSFC

after 40C Cruise Phase

Battery 1

8/17/10

surface drilling drill #1



# Surface Drilling Phase

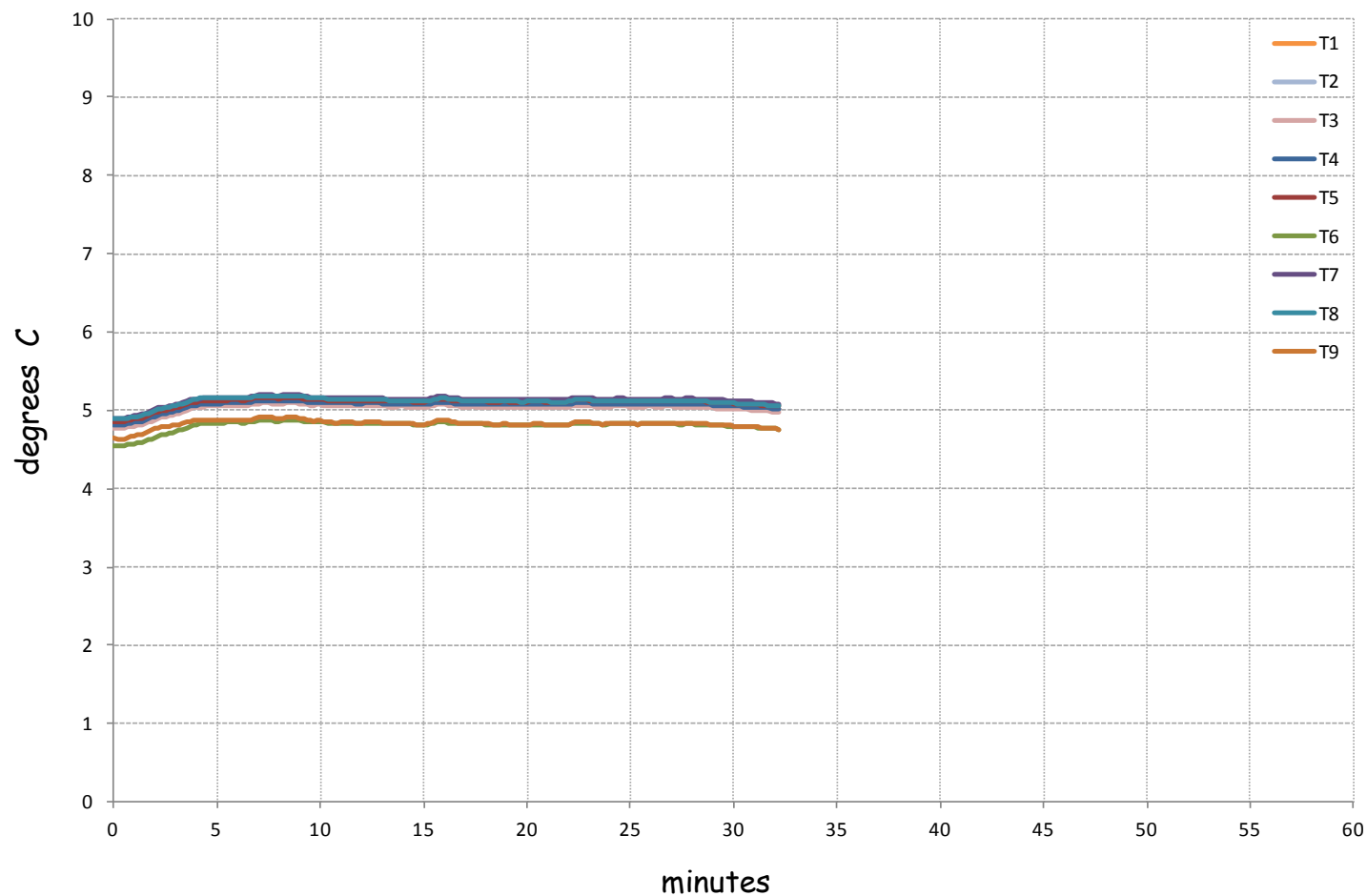


MSFC

Battery 1

8/17/10

temps 1-9 (string 1)



# Surface Drilling Phase



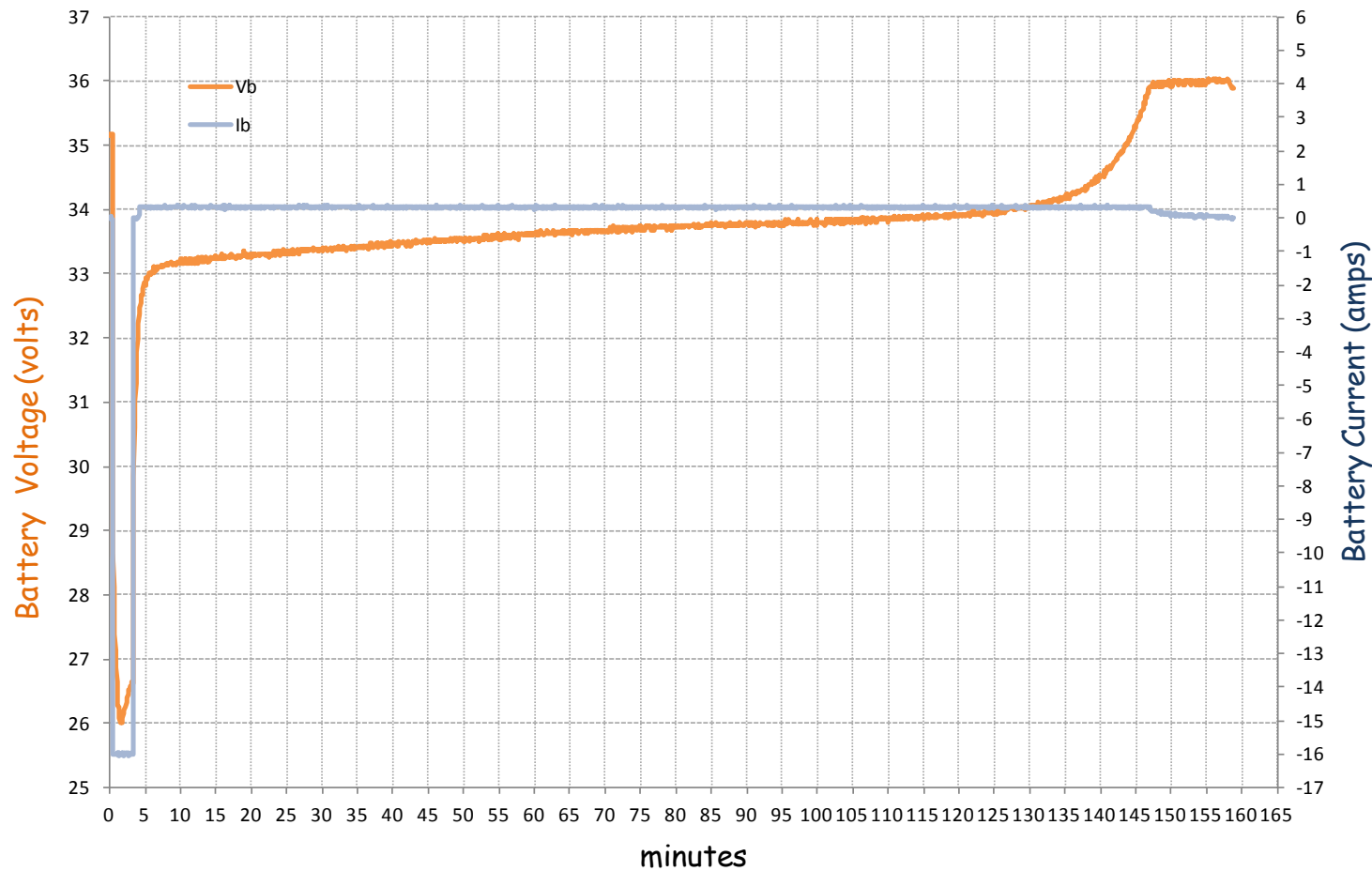
MSFC

after 40C Cruise Phase

Battery 1

10/15/10

surface drilling drill #50



# Surface Drilling Phase

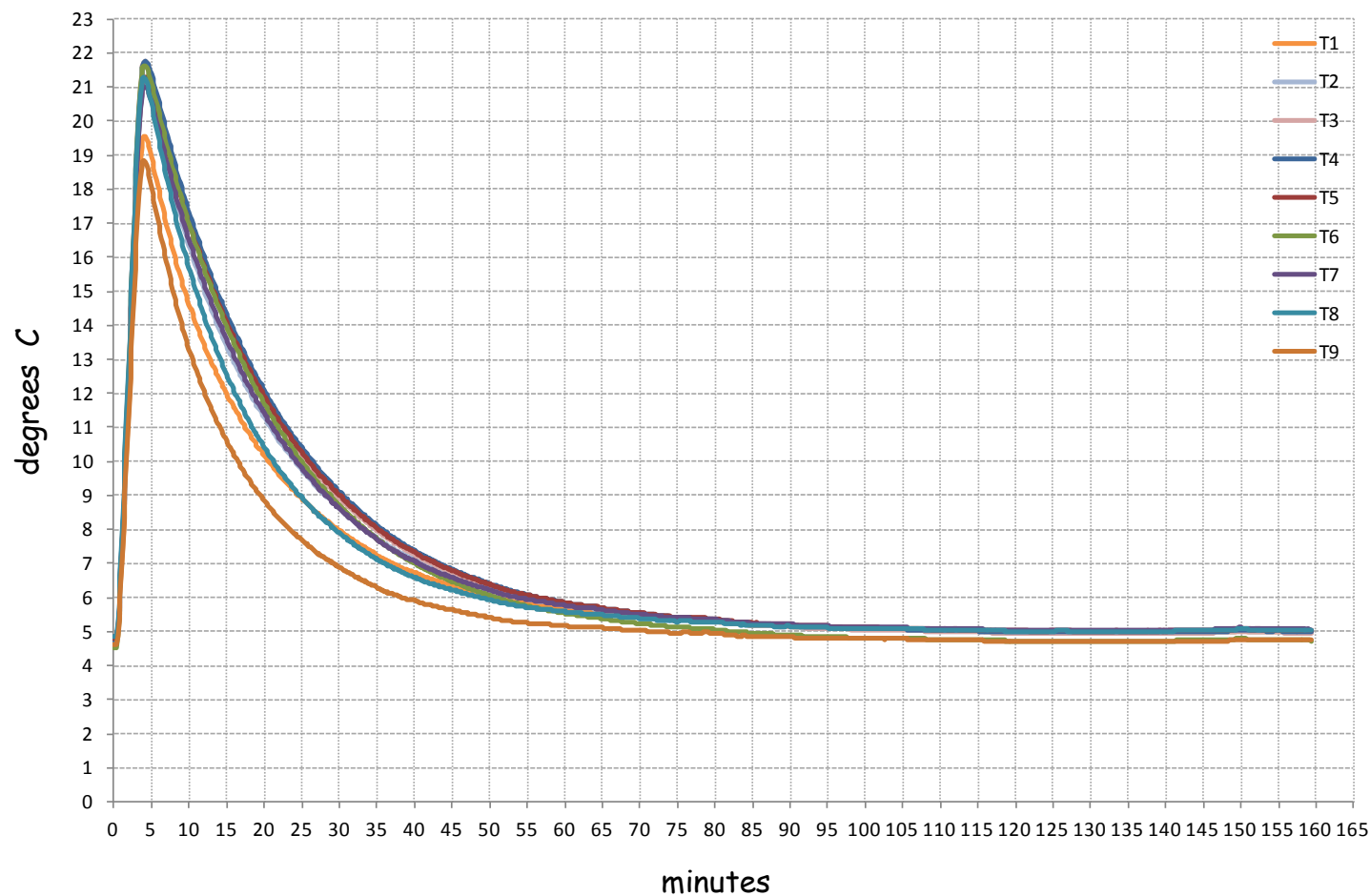


MSFC

Battery 1

10/15/10

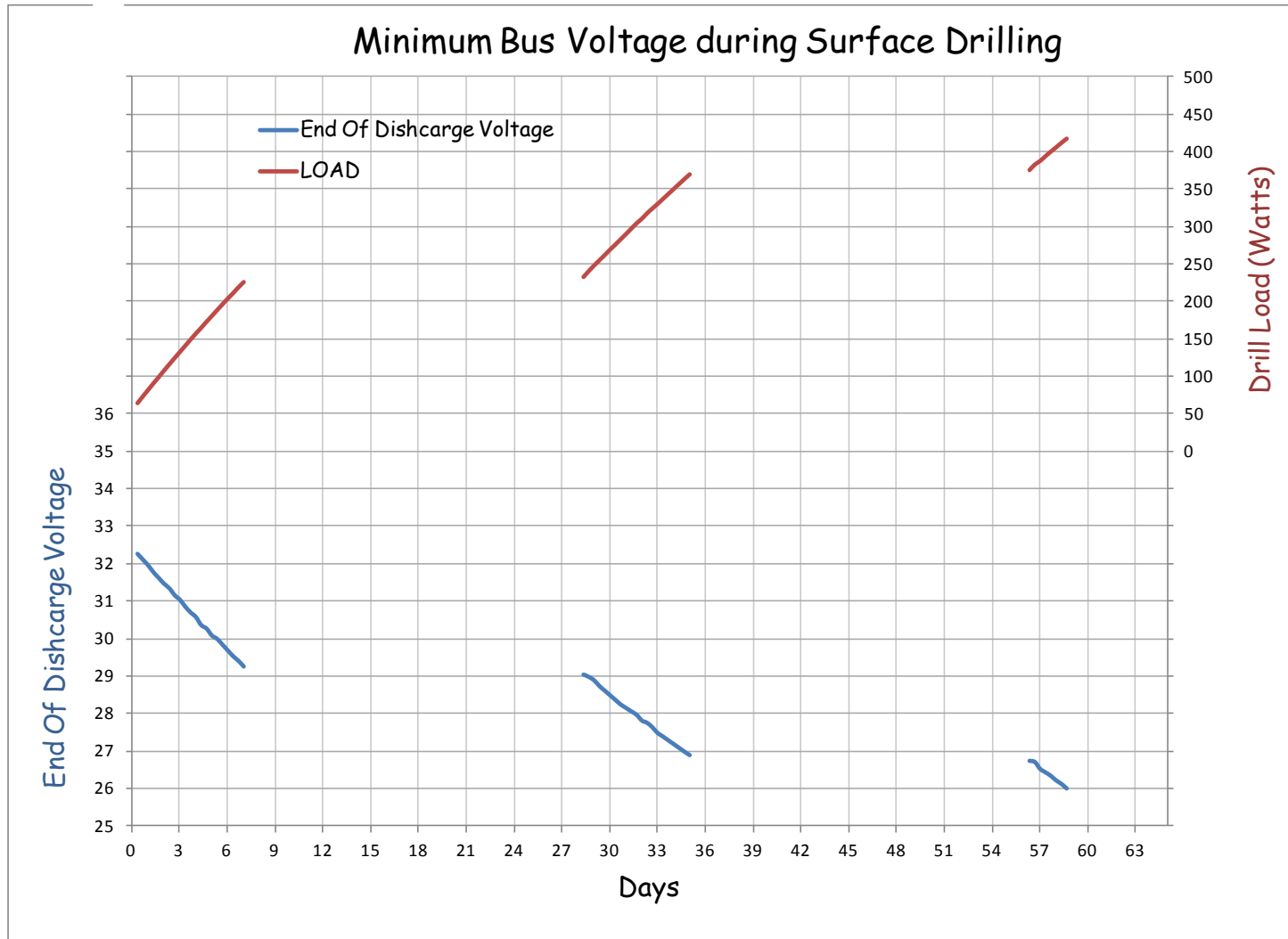
temps 1-9 (string 1)



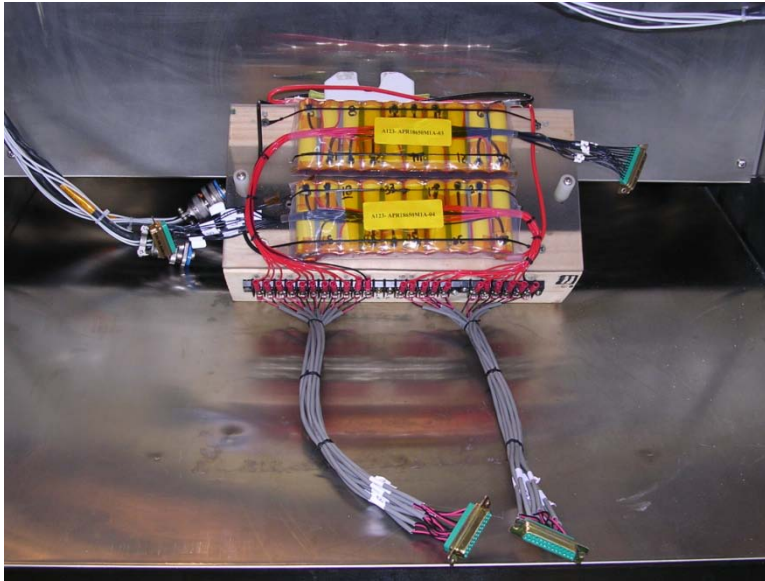
# Surface Drilling Phase



MSFC



# Surface Drilling Phase



- Second Battery (ES41-10-ILN-TA-001) @ 50° C During 5Day Cruise
- Second Battery Performance Duplicates and Reinforces Performance of First Battery



MSFC

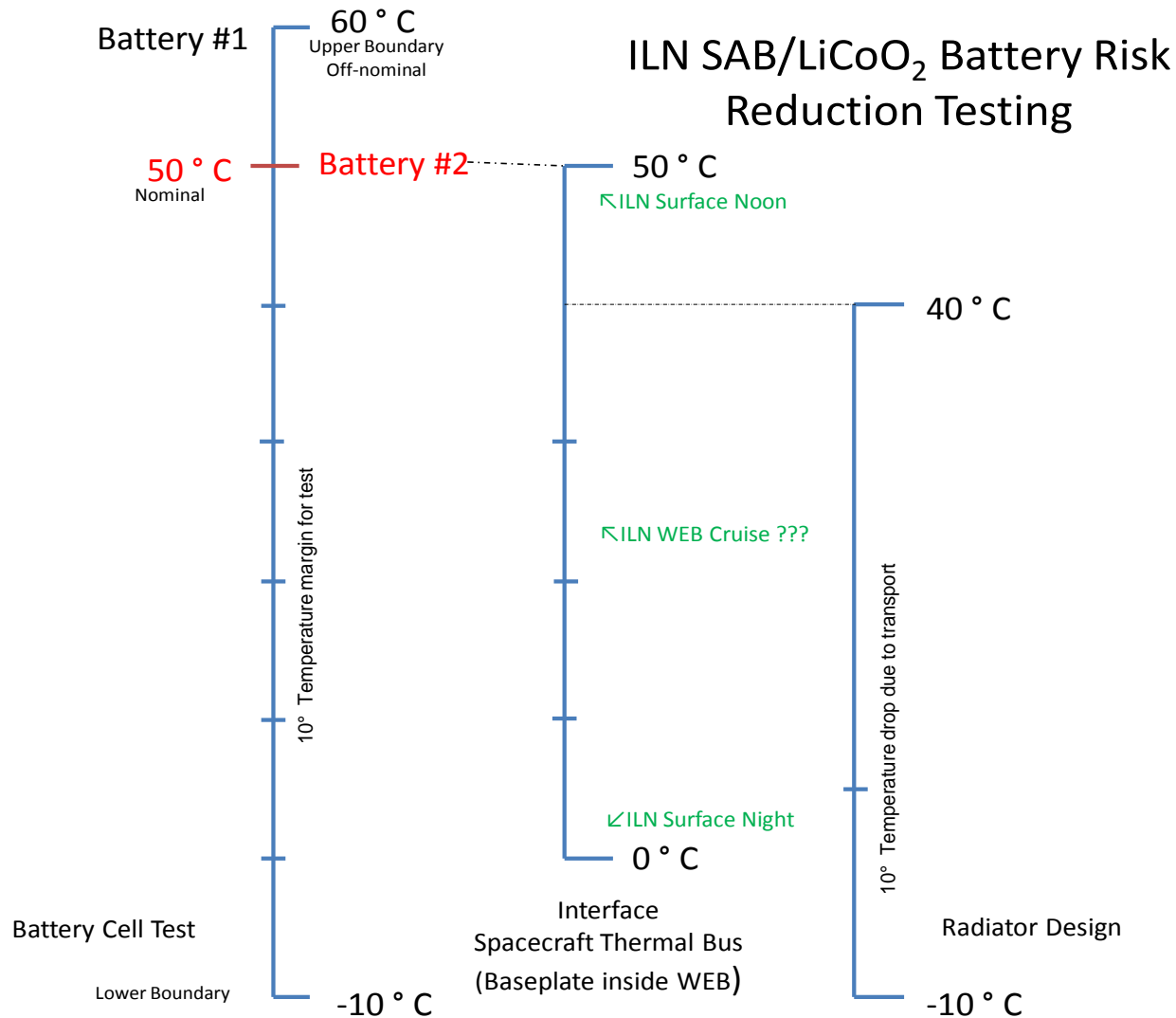
# Lunar Equator Mission

- Solar Array Battery System Indicated
  - 15.5 Days (372 Hours) eclipse darkness
  - 14 Days (336 hours) sunlight
- Thermal Subsystem Control
  - $-200^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $+170^{\circ}\text{C}$
- Lithium Ion ( $\text{LiCoO}_2$ ) Battery - 50 Ahr Blocks
  - 8 cell Battery
  - Very Low Surface Rates
  - Battery Size covers Peaks

# Lunar Equator Mission

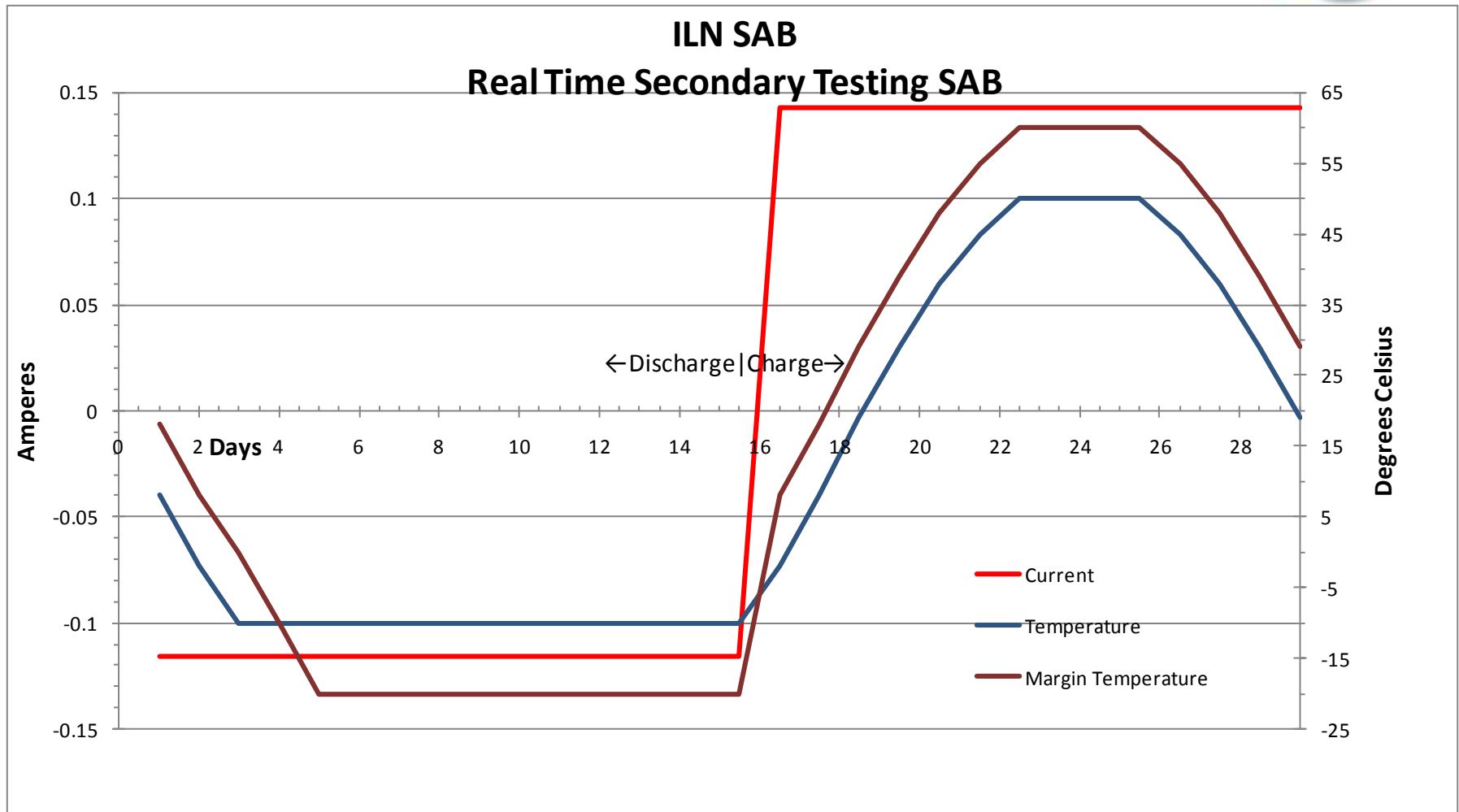


MSFC

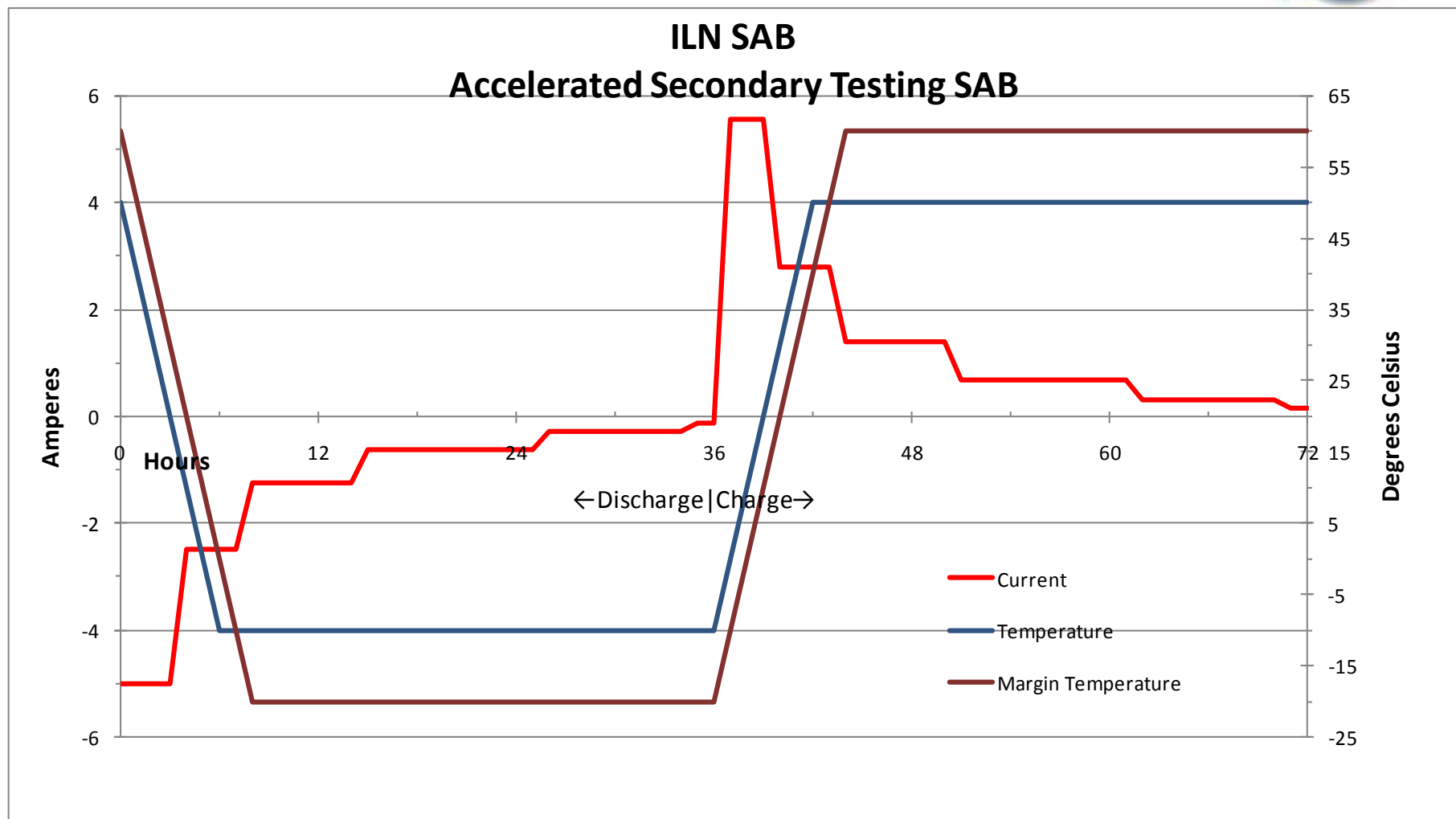




# Lunar Equator Mission



# Lunar Equator Mission



# Lunar Equator Mission



MSFC



SAFT VES 180

$\text{LiNi-AlCoO}_2$



Lithion NCP55-2

$\text{Li-CoO}_2$  SAB

# Lunar Equator Mission



MSFC



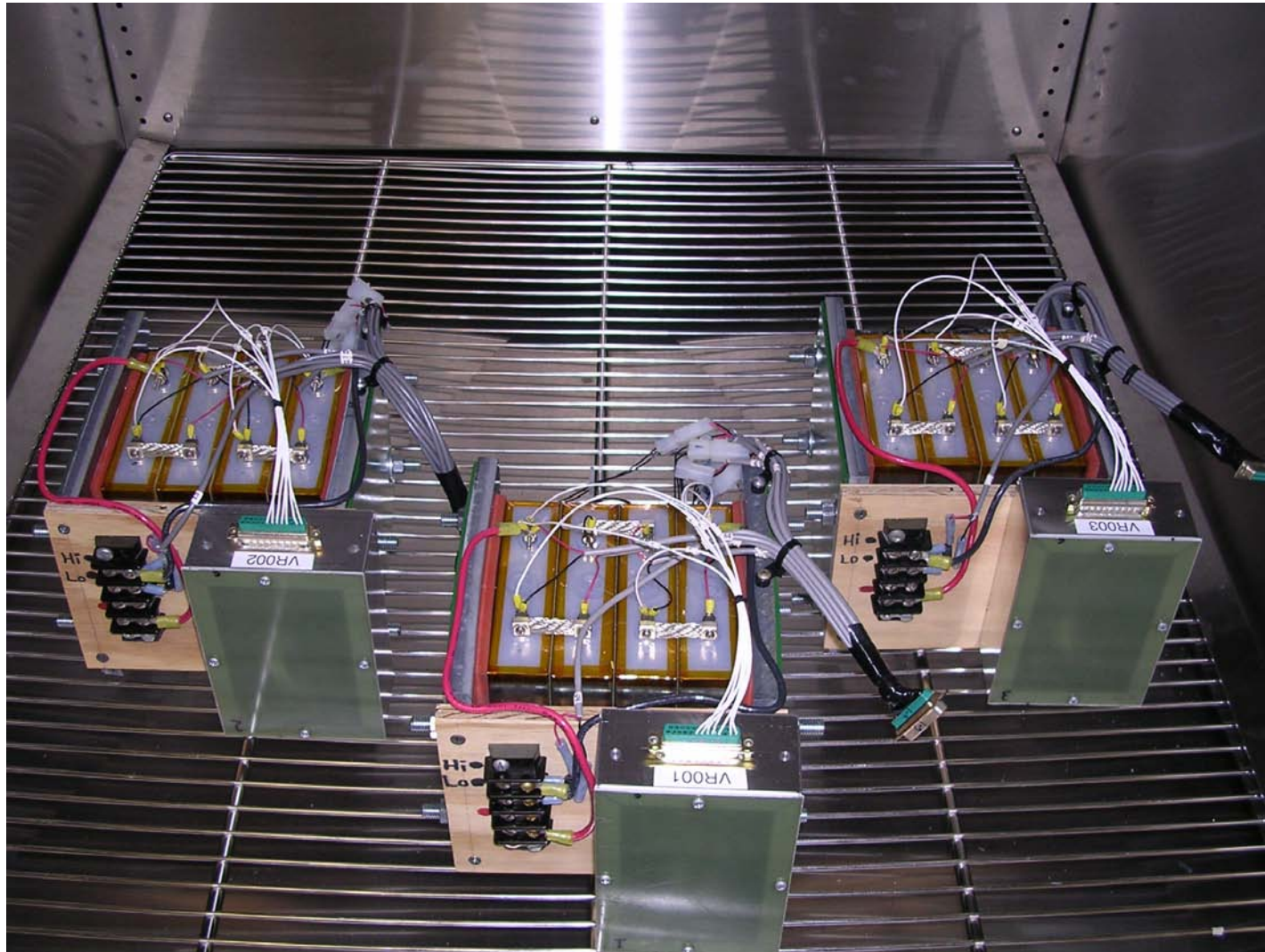
NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011



# Lunar Equator Mission



MSFC



NASA Aerospace Battery Workshop, Huntsville, AL Nov 16, 2011

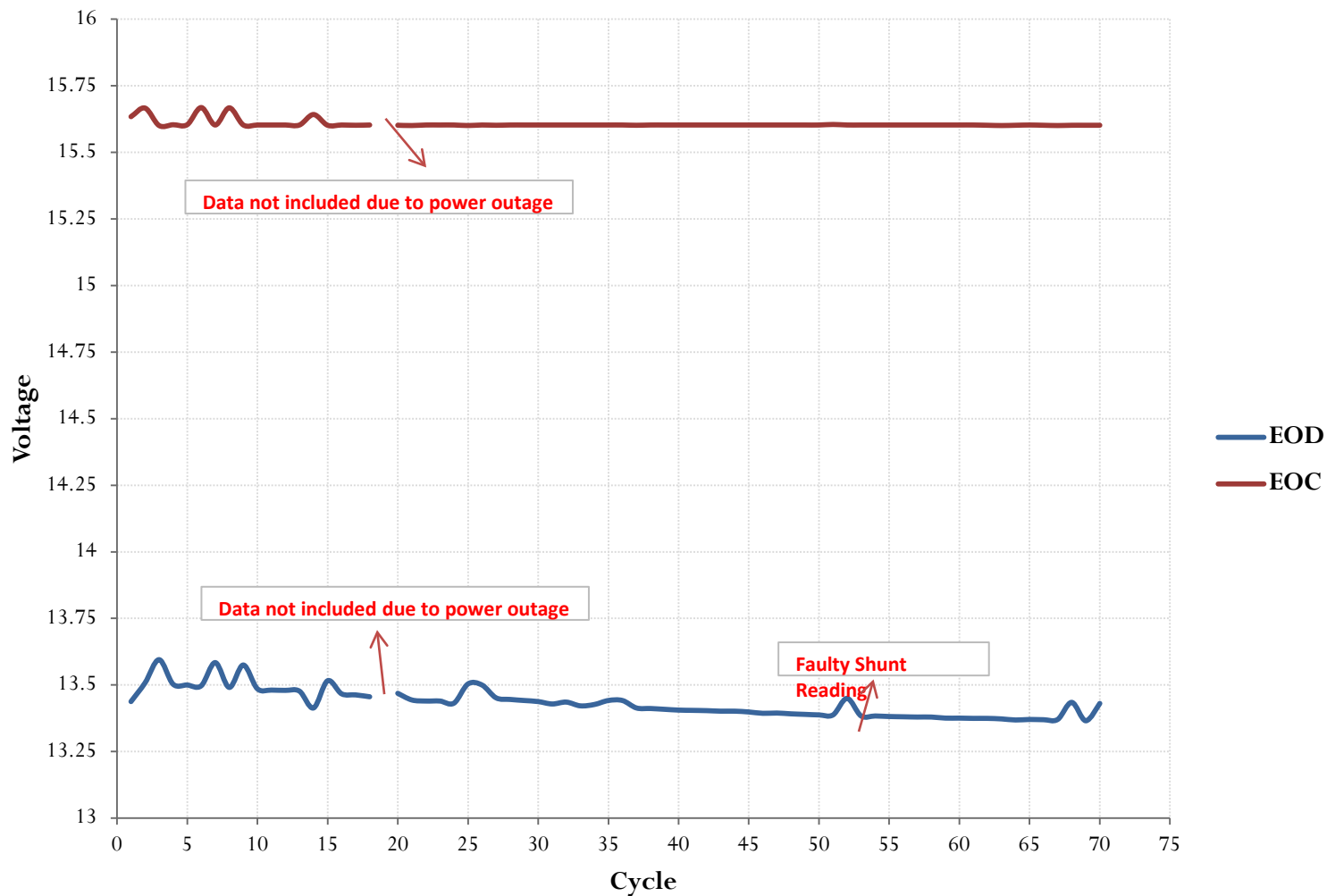
# Lunar Equator Mission

SAFTVES 180 Accelerated

80% DOD



MSFC



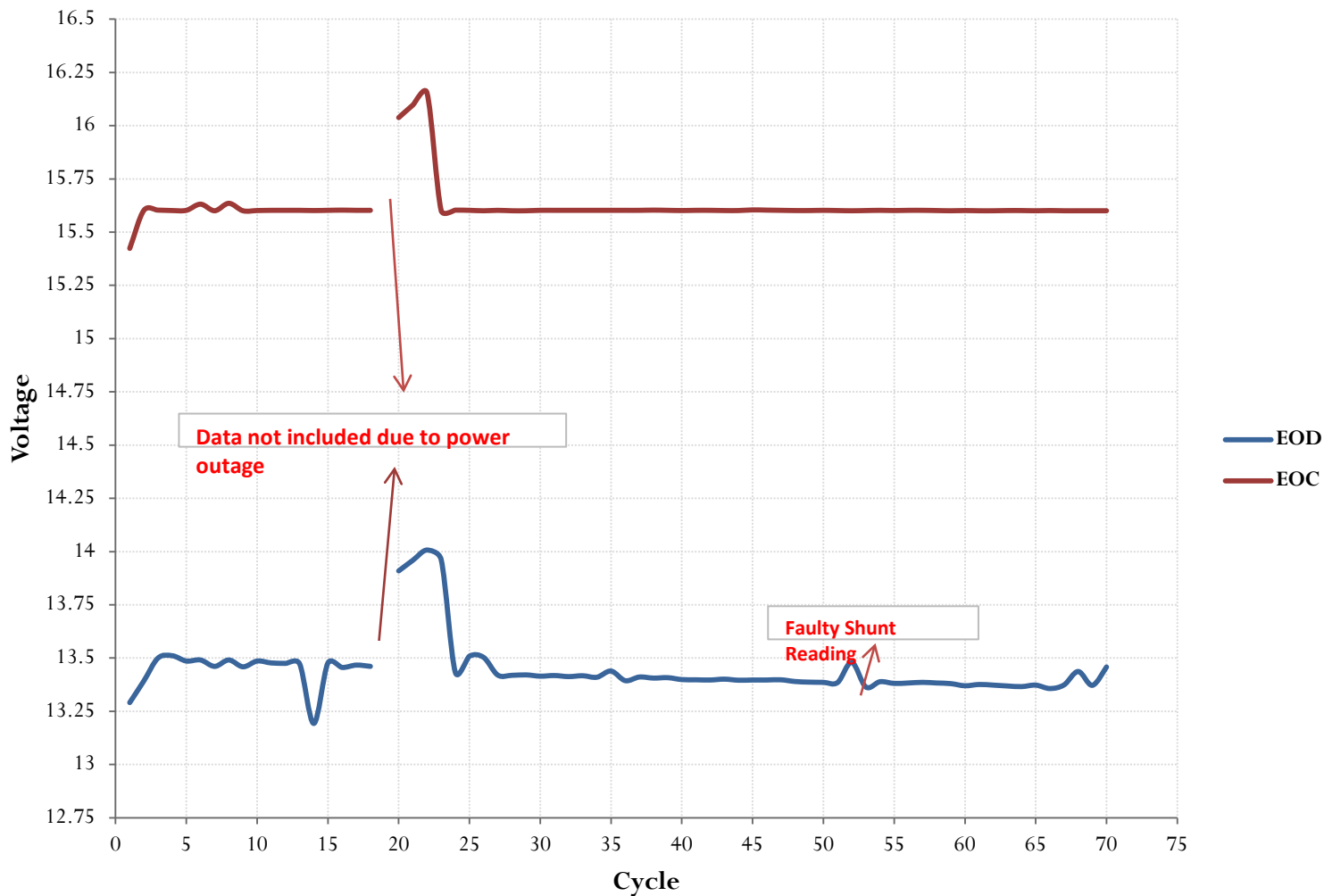
# Lunar Equator Mission

Lithion NCP55-2 Accelerated

80% DOD



MSFC





MSFC

# Real Time Lunar Equator

- In 10<sup>th</sup> Cycle
  - 15.5 Days (372 Hours) eclipse darkness
  - 14 Days (336 hours) sunlight
  - 26 watt Constant Load
  - 80% DOD
- 50° and 60° C
- No Trending established yet.





MSFC

# Conclusions

- Lithium Iron Phosphate ( $\text{LiFePO}_4$ ) is a good candidate chemistry to supplement ASRG
  - 16 C rate Capability
  - 0 deg C min operating Temperature
- Lithium Cobalt Oxide ( $\text{LiCoO}_2$ ) accelerated testing successful for Lunar Equator application.
  - +50 deg C maximum battery temperature
  - -10 deg C minimum battery temperature
- Real time testing at +50° C and +60° C maximum
  - 9 completed cycles
  - No trending yet established